



(c) crown copyright

PF 710549 / V1

SPENCER

Box 414

Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date
-----------	------------------	------	-----------	------------------	------	-----------	------------------	------

KN2/3700

S. 960 Edn2

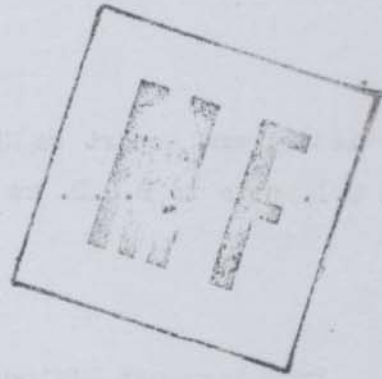
PF 710549 / V1

# MINUTE SHEET

Reference P.F.710549

1.

FILE MICROFILMED



22.9.52

Extract from "Daily Worker" re. CHAPLIN

1a

2.

22.9.52

Extract from "Daily Worker" re CHAPLIN

2a

3.

6.9.52

Cutting from "Daily Worker" re CHAPLIN

3a

4.

26.9.52

Int. telegram from MONTAGUE Ivor to CHAPLIN

4a

5.

3.10.52

Cutting from "Daily Worker" re CHAPLIN

5a

6.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

3.10.52

Copy of telegram to S.L.O. Washington re CHAPLIN

6a

7.

4.10.52

Cutting from "World News and Views" re CHAPLIN

7a

4.10.52.

Cutting from "Challenge"

7b.

8.

6.10.52

Telegram received from S.L.O. Washington re CHAPLIN

8a

(1883) Wc10505/4395

1,000,000 JC&S

Gp736/209

GIMINT)

DE 5.1

[OVER]



9.

20.10.52 Letter and Report re CHAPLIN from American Embassy

9a

22.10.52. B.1. note to B.4.D. re possible references to CHAPLIN in PRAVDA.

9b.

10.

24.10.52. From Passport Office re Charles CHAPLIN.

10a.

11.

24.10.52. From P.O. giving particulars of CHAPLIN.

11a.

12.

27.10.52. To Patterson, Washington, requesting information re CHAPLIN's previous passports.

12a.

13.

31.10.52. From B.5. re search for CHAPLIN's birth certificate.

13a.

14.

10.11.52. From Washington, in reply to 12a, re CHAPLIN's passports.

14a.

15.

12.11.52. From B.4.d., in reply to 9a, enclosing report on searches in Prvada for traces re CHAPLIN.

15a.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



MINUTE SHEET

16.

17.11.52.

From British Embassy, Washington, further to 14a, and in reply to 12a.

16a.

17.

17.11.52.

Draft letter to American Embassy in reply to 9a.  
(Replaced by 19a).

17a.

18.

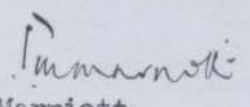
D.B.

Please see at 17a a draft reply to Cimperman in answer to his letter at 9a. I think it better not to volunteer the information at 15a, but to confine ourselves to answering the specific questions put by the F.B.I. If they really want to whip up a case against CHAPLIN, they can read Pravda for themselves.

It is curious that we can find no record of CHAPLIN's birth, but I scarcely think that this is of any security significance.

B.I.

17.11.52.

  
J.H.Marriott.

19.

18 11.52.

To American Embassy in reply to 8a.

19a.

20.

22.11.52.

From South African Police re CHAPLIN.

20a

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

21.

*2/1/52*  
*bl*  
*1/12*  
B.I.G. through D.O.S.

The request from the South African Police, filed at Serial 20a, is not unreasonable in view of the publicity which has been given to CHAPLIN's alleged Communist sympathies.

On the other hand, although he is a British subject, our information about him is derived largely from F.B.I. sources. I cannot remember any occasion on which we have passed to the Union Police information about a British citizen derived from American sources, and I doubt whether any purpose would be served in telling the Union any more than is contained in the first ~~the~~ paragraph of Washington's telegram filed at Serial 8a.

*I agree.*

*H. Loftus Brown*  
O.S.3.  
28.11.52.

H. Loftus Brown.

22.

*D/12*  
B.I.G./Brigadier Magan.

Please see minute 21. There seem to be two principles involved. Firstly: whether we can, if we wish, pass the American information in full to the South African Police; and, secondly: whether we think it desirable to do so.

On the first point I do not think there is occasion for serious doubt. We could, of course, ask Cimperman, but I should be surprised if he could make a case for serious objection. I consulted him recently about passing some information to the Intelligence Bureau, India, and met with no objection. On the second point, I agree with the suggestion made in the latter part of minute 21 but would go further. We have no indication from the Americans of the reliability they ascribe to their information and in the absence of this, I am inclined to consider it as being of very doubtful quality. I am not also impressed with the information, as amplified in the attachment to Cimperman's letter at 9a, concerning the alleged subscription made by CHAPLIN to Party funds. I do not myself see what possible assistance the South African Police could derive from the American information and I should prefer to reply that we have no reliable information of security interest ~~other than what has appeared from time to time in various world press reports.~~

B.I.G.  
3.12.52.

*P. B. Ray*  
P. B. Ray.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



# MINUTE SHEET

Reference PF. 710, 549

23.

B.1.

Please see 20a and Minutes 21 and 22.

1. Mr. Loftus Brown doubts whether any purpose would be served by telling the South African Police any more than is contained in the first paragraph of Patterson's telegram at 8a. I do not think that we should tell them as much. Patterson says categorically that "Chaplin has given funds to Communist Front Organisations." The report attached to Cimperman's letter at 9a does not go so far; it merely quotes sources as having said he did so.
2. Otherwise I agree with Mr. Ray, though I would incline to say that we have no information of our own to add to the American allegations to which they no doubt refer. The American information in its present form would not be helpful to the South Africans, and they already know the salient feature that the American Government considers itself to have some grounds for suspecting him.
3. I shall be grateful for your views, and I would then like to follow up Chaplin's origin. The last two lines of the report attached to 9a contain an allegation that he talked of "going back to Russia." This might refer to paying another visit, or it might denote his origin as Russia. Towards the end of the last century large numbers of Jews fled westward from Russian pogroms. If CHAPLIN is a Jew, he might thus have been a member of a refugee family. Mr. Wakefield mentioned to me to-day that he had some recollection of seeing an account somewhere of CHAPLIN's origin. I shall, therefore, in due course, send the file to him.

B.1.G.

5th December 1952

*W.M.T. Magan*  
W.M.T. Magan.

24

6.12.52.

Draft of letter to South African Police re CHAPLIN.

24a

*B.1.G. 2/12/52*  
*B.1.G. Magan.* 25  
*D.B. 1/12* Despatch 24a as amended.  
*22/12*

With reference to 20a and subsequent minutes, I think that we should reply to the South Africans in terms of the draft at 24a.

2. I feel that we must express some opinion about the American allegations as otherwise the South Africans will surely think that we are being rather unhelpful. As we do consider these allegations to be unreliable and have assessed the security significance of CHAPLIN accordingly, I feel that it is proper that we should say so to the South Africans.

*J.H. Marriott*  
J.H. Marriott.

B.1.

6.12.52.

26.



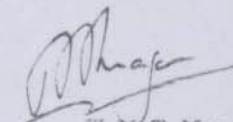
1316  
J.H. Jones  
to J.H. Jones  
1/12/52  
A7

27.

Mr. Wakefield, A.7.

Please see the last sentence of my minute 23. If you can give me any assistance in discovering Charlie CHAPLIN's origins, I shall be very grateful.

B.1.G.  
12th December 1952

  
W.M.T. Magan.

28.

5.1.53. To S.B. re CHAPLIN

28a

29.

30.

5.1.53. Telegram to SLO Washington

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

30a.

31.

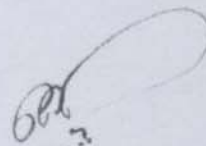
12.1.53 From Washington re CHAPLIN

31a

32.

B.1.B./Mr. Adam. <sup>259A</sup>  
15/11.

I think that under the reorganisation this should now be  
?/ your case. The material at serial 31a is in fact substantially  
the same as that at 9a and, as you will see from minutes 21 to  
25, a reply to the S.A. Police request at 20a was sent. It  
seems improbable that the S.A. Police will ask again.



B.1.G.  
13.1.53.

P. B. Ray.

33.

16.1.53. Note of M.I.6. conversation with B.1.B. re CHAPLIN.

33a

# MINUTE SHEET

Reference.....

34.

- 16.1.53. To M.I.6 re CHAPLIN in reply to 33a.
- 19.1.53. Extract from I.S. telegram re CHAPLIN
- 19.1.53. Extract from I.S. telegram, Italy to F.O.

34a  
34b  
34c.

35.

- 22.1.53. From American Embassy - further information about CHAPLIN's alleged communist affiliations.

35a.

36.

B.1.G.

You ought to see the letter from Cimperman at 35a which has not yet been seen by D.B. I think that we must now pass the American information to South Africa, and I should, therefore, be glad if you would prepare a summary for D.B.'s approval. In addition to the summary we shall have to make some sort of assessment of what the American information adds up to.

*J.H. Marriott*  
J.H. Marriott.

B.1.  
26.1.53.

37.

B.1.G./Brigadier Magan.

Please see minute 36. Though I am quite ready to prepare the letter to South Africa, it appears to me that B.1.B. is in fact the section concerned. CHAPLIN is, so far as is known, a British subject, and he proposes to visit South Africa.

B.1.G.  
27th January 1953

*P.B. Ray*  
P.B. Ray.

38.

B.1.B.

I agree with Mr. Ray that this case would appear to fall within the responsibilities of B.1.B.

B.1.G.  
28th January 1953

*W.M.T. Magan*  
W.M.T. Magan.



39.

29.1.53. Draft reply to South African Police

39a

40.

B.1.

With reference to your minute 36 and subsequent minutes, we spoke to-day about Charlie CHAPLIN's case and I rescued the file and, in the attached draft, have attempted to find a way out of our difficulty. If it is not a good way, it at least provides a starting point for discovering a better.

I propose that Appendix 'A' shall consist of the enclosure to 9a in toto; that Appendix 'B' shall consist of the enclosure to 31a ~~31a~~ excluding parts which I have bracketed in red; that Appendix 'C' shall consist of those items in 35a which are included in the red brackets.

B.1.G.

29th January 1953

*W.M.T. Magan*  
W.M.T. Magan.

41.

B.B.

*I agree with your draft 39a as amended  
D.G.W. 7/2*

You have not seen Cimperman's letter at 35a which, as we knew would be the case from the exchange of telegrams at 29a and 30a, rather puts us on the spot, having regard to the terms of our letter to the South Africans at 26a. Magan has attempted the difficult task now presented to us, and has prepared a draft at 39a. This however does not seem to me quite to meet the case, and my feeling is that we should in the circumstances do well to restrict ourselves as far as possible to acting as a post box for the F.B.I. information. I have amended the draft accordingly.

B.1.

30.1.53.

*J.H. Marriott*  
J.H. Marriott.

42.

3.2.53. Draft destroyed. Letter now at 43a.  
~~To S. African Police regarding CHAPLIN~~

42a

43.

4.2.53. To S.A.P. re CHAPLIN.

43a



# MINUTE SHEET

Reference.....

44.

12.2.53.

From S.B. re CHAPLIN.

44a

45.

B.I.G./Mr. Clapham.

As CHAPLIN is now in Switzerland, perhaps you will kindly handle his case.

With reference to 44a, I would like to establish CHAPLIN's name at birth, and it would therefore be worth asking M.I.6. to ask if there is any record of his birth at Fontainebleau on 16.4.89. either under the name CHAPLIN or Israel THORNSTEIN.

Would you kindly thank S.B. for their report and tell them we shall let them know if we manage to establish the details of his birth.

*W.M.T. Magan*

W.M.T. Magan.

B.I.G.

17th February, 1953.

46.

19.2.53.

To S.B. concerning CHAPLIN.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

46a.

47.

19.2.53.

To M.I.6. re CHAPLIN.

47a.

48.

24.2.53.

Press Cutting from the TIMES re CHAPLIN.

48a.

49.

BIG / Mr. Clapham 17/4

Ref Serial 47a. Perhaps we should send M.I.6. a reminder of BFA the file.

BIG

16.4.53.

*W.M.T. Magan*

	50.	
16.4.53.	Press Cutting From "Daily Worker" re CHAPLIN	50y
16.4.53.	Ext. from "The Times" ment. Charlie CHAPLIN.	50z.
17.4.53.	To +M.I.6. concerning Charles CHAPLIN.	50a

51.

18.4.53.	Press Cutting From "Daily Mail" re CHAPLIN	51a.
----------	--	------

52.

20.4.53.	Cutting from Daily Worker.	52a.
28.4.53.	Secret Cross Reference.	52b.

1.5.53.	From M.I.6.	53a.
---------	-------------	------

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958. April 2011.

54.

4.5.53.	To S.B. concerning CHAPLIN.	54a.
---------	-----------------------------	------

55.

19.5.53.	From Civil Censorship Austria (British Element)	55a.
----------	---	------

56.

16.7.53.	To American Embassy mentioning CHAPLIN.	56a.
----------	---	------



# MINUTE SHEET

Reference.....

57.

13.11.53.

Extract from int. letter to World Council of Peace.

57a

58.

19.7.54.

Cutting from "Daily Worker" re CHAPLIN.

58a

59.

3.3.55.

Telegram to CHAPLIN.

59a

60.

10.11.55.

Extract from LASCAR ment. CHAPLIN

60a

61.

27.4.56.

Intercept telegram

61a

29.4.56.

Cutting from Sunday Express

61b

62.

2.5.56.

Intercept telegram

62a

63

22.5.57.

✕ Int. letter.

63a

64

9.9.57.

Press Cutting from the Times.

64a

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

[OVER



65

66

6.9.57. Cutting from RADIO TIMES

66z

7.9.57 Press Cutting from "Daily Worker" - CHAPLIN

66a

67

11.9.57. Cutting fro THE TIMES

67a

13.9.57. T/C. on C.P.H.Q.

68a

69

70

71

72.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

73.

51.1.58. Cutting from Birmingham Post.  
 6.2.58. Cutting from Daily Telegraph.  
 6.2.58. Cutting from Daily Mail

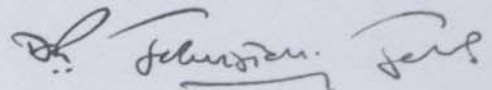
73 a  
 73b  
 73c

74.

E.2.

Please see 73a

2. Would you like me to ask F.I.A. for a short note on CHAPLIN, for us to send to SLO East Africa?



D.R. Johnston-Jones.

11.2.58.  
E.2

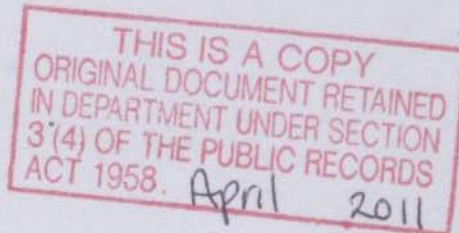
E2/D.R.J-J.

1. Please refer to your minute 74.

2. I do not think that we need inform S.L.O. East Africa about CHAPLIN's forthcoming visit, unless, from your F.I.A. experience, he is of more security interest than the later serials in this file indicate.

E2.  
 14.2.1958.

76



17.2.58.

From SLO East Africa

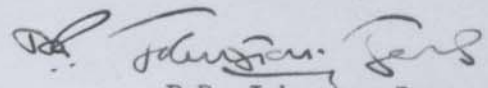
76a

77

FIA/Mr. Goodwyn

In view of 76a - and notwithstanding Minutes 74 and 75 - perhaps you would very kindly let us have an assessment of CHAPLIN to send to SLO East Africa?

20.2.1958.  
E.2



D.R. Johnston-Jones.

78.

*Thank you.*  
*DRG-5*  
E.2/D.S.-J.

27/2

I file at serial 79a a note which you may wish to consider making the basis for a letter to the S.L.O.

*H. P. Goodwyn*  
H. P. Goodwyn.

F.I.A.  
24.2.58.

79.

24.2.58. Note for file.

80

27.1.58. To SLO East Africa.

80a

81.

13.3.58. Cutting from 'Daily Mail'

81a.

82.

27.5.58. Cutting from Daily Herald.

82a

83.

10.9.1958 Cutting from 'Manchester Guardian'.

83a

84.

10.9.1958 Cutting from 'News Chronicle'.

84a

85

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

"FILE CLOSED"



THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date.....

St Wilby 12/9.  
10 SEP 1958

NEWS CHRONICLE

84a

**Affair of honour**

\*\*\*\*\*

**C**HARLES CHAPLIN, the sad-faced clown, stopped in the middle of writing his memoirs at his Swiss villa home yesterday and flew to London to settle a matter of honour.

Today he will have talks with his London lawyers about three of his silent comedies which he says are being shown on British screens without his consent.

"They have been mutilated—big pieces have been cut out—and are in such a bad condition that you can hardly see them," he said sorrowfully when he called an almost unprecedented Press conference at the Savoy Hotel.

He is prepared to spend £30,000 to protect the 14 of his early films of which he holds the copyright.

Incidentally, Chaplin is thinking of buying a house in England. "London has a lure for me," he says.



pa  
PF710549

FIA to see

St Wilby  
15.9.58

F1/CR  
15.9.58



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

E1

10 SEP 1958

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

Date.....

11 SEP 1958

83a

**CHAPLIN ANGRY**

**To take action against  
"pirated films"**

Charles Chaplin arrived in London last night from Switzerland to take action against certain people who, he said, were pirating pictures of his like "The Kid," "The Pilgrim," and "Shoulder Arms," and showing them illegally in Britain. "I am angry and frustrated by the fact that these films are chopped and hacked about," he said. He had already taken action in France, Belgium, Holland, and Italy, and would see his lawyers in this country.

He said that the films were mutilated and not in good condition. They were what was known as duped prints and had been acquired in an illegal way. Asked who was showing them, Mr Chaplin said he was himself in the dark. He hoped to see one of the pirated films "to see how bad it is": he understood sound effects were added.

Mr Chaplin—"I am pushing 70 very hard"—expects to be in London two or three days.

6/22  
for pol  
with  
E1 11/9

Ends  
15.9.58

E1/CB  
15.9.58

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Σ1 PRC

Date... 27 5 58

Daily Herald

82a

Henry Irving

**CHAPLINS FLEE**

AMONG others on the move yesterday were the Charlie Chaplins, fleeing from the London

weather back to Geneva, and Lady Isobel Barnett, Majorca bound with her husband, Sir Geoffrey.

Said Charlie, cross: "We are not staying here with the weather as it is. We had planned to go north, then on to Scotland. But that would have meant passing through Manchester. And what must it be like up there?"

Actually, at the time the sun was coming out—and it was cloudy and dull in Switzerland! In the Mediterranean, of course, it was still pretty hot.

PA  
RF 710549

29/1

res R4

30-5-58



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

*St. Nicholas*

Date **13 MAR 1958**

*R. L. 819*

DAILY MAIL

*R. 710549*

*Tamara Diary*

#### BACK FROM SAFARI

Charlie Chaplin and Oona, with their two eldest children, 12-year-old Michael and 13-year-old Geraldine, returned to their Geneva home yesterday from safari in Kenya.

A chauffeur-driven limousine

was followed by a taxi carrying 18 surplus pieces of luggage.

Charlie had a four-day stubble on his chin. "It's been too exhausting," he said.

Michael still wore a Kenya version of a cowboy hat.

"Treetops was terrific," he said. Treetops is the famous jungle observation point where the Queen was told of the death of her father.

One thing Charlie wouldn't talk about. Whether the setting of his next film will be Africa.

*L. H. 11/3/58*

SECRET

80-  
File ✓  
Float  
L.B.

PF 710,549/E.2/DRJJ.

SF 30/6/7/2.

To: SLO East Africa.

From: Head Office.

Charles CHAPLIN

Would you please refer to your letter of 10th February, 1958.

79a 2. I enclose a note on the above-named.

*DRJS*  
D.R. Johnston-Jones.

27th February, 1958.

/DPT

Enc: 3 pages

SECRET

*MA/Ri*  
*3.3.58*

*01/62*  
*27.2*



79A

NOTE FOR PF.710,549.

Charles Spenser CHAPLIN, when resident in America, was the subject of several reports associating him with Communism. These reports, the veracity of which we are unable to check and which do not impress us by their prima facie quality, induced the American authorities to rule in 1952 and 1953 that he would not be permitted to re-enter the U.S.A. without satisfying the Immigration authorities that under regulations in force he was a suitable person to do so. The implication was that he was not so. CHAPLIN thereafter took up residence in Switzerland.

2. We have no substantial information of our own against CHAPLIN, and we are not satisfied that there are reliable grounds for regarding him as a security risk. His name has, of course, been exploited in the interests of Communism as one of the victims of "McCarthyism".

3. It is of some interest that when CHAPLIN was last in London in 1957 in connection with his film "A King in New York" (a not very successful satire which featured "McCarthyism") he was at some pains to avoid entanglement with the Russian Embassy here. He did not want to run the risk of political embarrassment.

4. It may be that CHAPLIN is a Communist sympathiser but on the information before us he would appear to be no more than a "progressive" or radical.

F.I.A.  
24.2.58.

H. P. Goodwin.

*[Handwritten signature]*

MAK  
38 58 MC/FIA  
24 2 58

CONFIDENTIAL

Telegrams: "SUBSIDED," Nairobi.  
Telephone: Nairobi 20437.



c/o KENYA SECRETARIAT,

P.O. BOX 30050

NAIROBI, KENYA.

Our Ref.: SF.30/6/7/2

Your Ref.:

To: Head Office

*sl CK 17/2*  
Charlie CHAPLIN

The above-named is coming out to East Africa on a visit shortly and we have already received one enquiry as to his security status from one of our territories and are likely to receive others.

2. Could you please tell me if he is of security interest in view of his past fellow-traveller sympathies.

for I.V. Carrel  
S.L.O. East Africa.  
(absent on tour)

10th February, 1958.  
/JVB

CONFIDENTIAL

356/80/E2

*MK/fe*  
3 3 58  
DT/E2  
19.2

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Σ1 PRE  
736

Date.....- 6 FEB 1958

DAILY MAIL

Tamfrws Dring

**PERSECUTION ?**

**A**N angry Charlie Chaplin last night accused the United States Government of "revengeful and continual persecution." He had been charged with evading income tax amounting to £500,000 in the year 1953-54.

At his Lake Geneva villa the 68-year-old British actor, who usually meets such reports with a strict "No comment," flew into a rage

Then he sat down and dic-

tated a statement to me over the telephone.

"I have paid every penny of my American taxes according to the advice of my American lawyers and reputable American accountants," he said.

"Having left the United States in 1952 and established my residence in Switzerland, their claim for further assessments for 1953-54 are not only unjust, but further proof of a revengeful and continual persecution."

p.a. PF 710549

M+K  
3. 3 58.

07162  
27.2

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

SL  
73b

Date... - 6 FEB 1958

DAILY TELEGRAPH

CHAPLIN DENIAL

Mr. Charles Chaplin yesterday described as unjust an American claim that he owed £500,000 in taxes. In a statement at his Swiss home in Corsier-sur-Vevey, he said: "It is common knowledge that no foreigner can leave America before making a complete settlement of his taxes."—B.U.P.

MA/RS  
3.3.52  
87/62  
272



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

PREP E 439  
DJ: EC

Date..... 31 JAN 1958

BIRMINGHAM POST

P.F. 710549

**Charles Chaplin for  
Kenya**

Charles Chaplin will leave his home at Vevey, Switzerland, next month for a six-week holiday in Kenya.

TH/EC  
17.2.58

RB RB  
4.2.58

69a  
70a  
71a  
72a

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



68A

SECRET

13 SEP 1957

Temple Bar 2151

(Communist Party H.Q.)

Incoming 11.9.57.

Freda ( GRIMBLE) rang Nora JEFFREY.

Freda said did Nora know if their friend Charlie (CHAPLIN) was at the Savoy. Nora said she did not know but it usually was so. Freda said she had persuaded Marion to go with her. Nora said the people who would be able to tell her about Charlie were the people in the other building who had reviewed the film.

Freda said the reason for being in London was that she had come up to see the Doctor and also for the meeting that evening.

14.4.  
25/1108/5.8.  
DD.

~~FIA/DS-5~~

PA in PF 710549.

DS-5

16/9

15/9  
17/9

676  
684  
682

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

11 SEP 1957

# Mr. Chaplin Satirizes McCarthyism

FROM OUR FILM CRITIC

There are in this world, strange as it would have seemed 40, 30, 20, or even 10 years ago, people who dislike Mr. Charles Chaplin and his works—and the number, at least in the United States, will probably increase when *A King in New York* has travelled through that country—but even these cannot deny that the first showing of a new Chaplin film is an occasion. It is good for the morale of films as a whole, since the very fact that it occurs enables the cinema, for the time being at any rate, to take its place without question among the seats reserved for the major arts. Mr. Chaplin, as is usual with him, is the author, producer, and director of *A King in New York*, which will have its first night at the Leicester Square Theatre to-morrow and from then on will be seen both there and at the Cameo-Polytechnic.

*Modern Times* was a satire aimed at the monstrous power of industry, a power which is opposed to and oppresses all that is natural and wayward in man. Industry here was universal, without a local habitation, but in *The Great Dictator*, Mr. Chaplin, while aiming at the general concept of dictatorship, narrowed his sights to focus them on Hitler and Mussolini. *A King in New York* combines the two processes. It is an attack on many facets of modern life that are apparent everywhere: noise, the tactics and success of the more vulgar

The question of personal motives is one that it is now seldom held proper to discuss, and satire has come too often to mean parody with a disarming, good-natured grin on its face. Swift, however, had personal motives to spare, and Mr. Chaplin may not be too disconcerted by the charge that here his own brand of visual satire is not without its dash of malice. Certainly he hits hard when he makes the spear-head of his assault the alternating methods of bullying and bribery used by American authorities to turn a small boy Rupert (Michael Chaplin), into an informer, but that is not the reason that *A King in New York* disappoints. It disappoints because the old Chaplin comic inspiration proves itself an affair of fits and starts, unstable and not to be relied on. *Modern Times*, after all, was the creation of Chaplin, the Mime; *A King in New York* is the work of the Chaplin of the smooth and easy speech, and the comparison is all in favour of the past—it is not without significance that, for his climax, Mr. Chaplin relies upon some crude work with a hose-pipe, directed at a committee investigating anti-American activities, which would have fitted into any of the Keystone comedies.

But the fits and starts exist and hilarious they are, the products of a technique sure of its own perfection. The King, unaware that the television cameras are trained on him, giving at a private dinner party his conception of Hamlet's soliloquy; the King, all too conscious that the television cameras are trained on him, making a superb hash of a two-minute "commercial" praising a particular brand of whisky—this is Mr. Chaplin combining the styles of the speaking and the silent film and forging them into a glorious whole.

Such moments are all too few, however, and, in contrast with them, the film seems, perhaps, rather more pedestrian than actually it is. Miss Dawn Addams, as the girl who introduces the King into the ways of television, gives a spirited performance and Mr. Oliver Johnston does admirably in the exacting part of the King's ambassador. *A King in New York* may prove to be that rare thing, a film which seems better at a second viewing than a first. Then the point of the paradox that a monarch is more democratic in some of his political thinking than a republic may become more pointed. Still, even so, it may be difficult to believe that this one could ever upset an apple-cart as effectively as another of his kind once did.



King Shaddov (Mr. Charles Chaplin) recovering a torn cheque from a waste paper basket in a scene from *A King in New York*.

forms of advertising, the credulity of the public, the swing away from the habits of independent thought to a mass entertainment medium such as commercial television, but those two last words in the title are not idle ones. This is *Modern Times* brought up to date and using the concentrated fire method, as practised in *The Great Dictator*, to seek its target in America and the American way of life, with special reference, as in so totally contrasting a film as *Les Sorcières de Salem*, to the phenomenon known as McCarthyism.



FIA/DIT 66a

PA in PF 710549.

Cutting from the Daily Worker dated 7.9.57.

12/9

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK

# The 'sly digger'

CHARLIE CHAPLIN told Pressmen probing him about his new film, "A King in New York": "It's not political. That word frightens me. The film is a comment on modern life, not a satire, and in very light-hearted vein."

Flashback to 1940. The Hitler hordes were on the rampage; America still on the touchline. A film, "The Great Dictator," appeared, and with praise from America's democrats came ugly snarls from her own would-be dictators and isolationists.

After a long, tolerant silence, came Charlie's riposte:

"Some people have suggested that I made this picture for propaganda purposes. This is far from the truth. I am not interested in propaganda as such—most of it is didactic and dull."

"I made 'The Great Dictator' because I hate dictators and because I want people to laugh."

Seventeen years and Charlie is, saying practically the same thing. Both statements at first sight are a little breath-taking. "The Great Dictator" not "propaganda"? Remember that magnificent final speech?

"Let us fight for a new world that will give men a chance to work, that will give youth a future and old age security," and so on until the final: "Soldiers, in the name of democracy, let us unite!"

☆ ☆  
"A King in New York" not "political"? We shall see after Thursday, when Charlie himself attends the premiere at London's Leicester Square Theatre.

It is, however, significant that Charlie set to work on it almost immediately he arrived at his new home above Lake Geneva. That is, after virtually being forced to the decision to shake off the dust of America, his domicile for 40 years.

It would be indeed surprising if during the hour and 40 minutes that people hold their bellies laughing, as Charlie predicts, the vaunted American Way doesn't get a few sly digs in the paunch from the former Cockney lad from Lambeth.

But Charlie would not call that being "political." And should there be any allusion to the military atomaniacs, well, that won't be "political" either.

☆ ☆  
"I believe in peace not through the H-bomb but through disarmament," Charlie said when he got his International Peace Prize in 1954.

But the nearest this master of satire has ever come to admitting to political beliefs is once, when he exclaimed: "Peace—I like it. And if that is political, then I am political," and, again, when he said:

"I want to see people well fed, with a roof over their heads—that's all the politics I have."

For Charlie's way is not to knock home the things he believes in with a rhetorical sledgehammer. Nothing so "didactic and dull."

The man who can appeal to more



CHARLIE CHAPLIN  
Next week's king.

hearts than any man alive, and, through the heart, to more heads, the man who still made successful silent films when "talkies" were supreme, knows how to "get across" with the minimum of words, the maximum of laughs and a few tugs at the heartstrings.

Charlie's genius is made up, among many other ingredients, of his mental and (even at 68) his physical nimbleness; his versatility as author, actor, producer, composer, conductor; his compassion for the under-dog and mocking of all hypocrisy; his business and particularly his professional shrewdness; his essential humanity, even to the romantic extravagancies of his stormy past.

☆ ☆  
Charlie is the kid who kept his mother in stitches with his mimicry to take her mind off their penury; he is the moody youth who puzzled his workmates in the Fred Karno outfit with his alternate aloofness and life-of-the-party spirit.

Charlie is the man, for years haunted by his childhood poverty, who demanded (and got) a Hollywood contract in 1915 for the precise sum of 1,075 dollars a week—"75 to live on and a thousand to go into safe bonds."

He was one of the first men to realise that the new medium of the cinema needed something more than just photographing stage acting; he has always been the innovator.

He is the self-styled "emotional cuss" who loved not wisely, but too much, yet seems at last to have found happiness with Oona, daughter of playwright Eugene O'Neill, and their six children.

Perhaps above all, Charlie is the man who has taught us how humanist beliefs should be "put across" without labelling them "politics" or "propaganda."

"If we are to survive in this day of nuclear energy and these weapons of destruction, we must develop a tolerance and kindness for our fellow men. It is not enough to be intellectual, we must have feeling."

13/9/57  
14/1/58



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Radio Times

Date..... 6 9 57

T.V. Programme  
Wed. 11. Sept.  
9.30 pm

**9.30 CHARLES CHAPLIN**

A film profile

Peter Haigh introduces  
scenes from Chaplin's  
most celebrated films  
including Charlie Chaplin  
in his early silent films

Also

'The Gold Rush' (1925)

'City Lights' (1931)

'Modern Times' (1936)

'Monsieur Verdoux' (1947)

'Limelight' (1953)

and his latest film

'A King in New York' (1957)

Script by Ernest Betts

Produced by Alan Sleath

(Film sequences by permission of  
Mr. Chaplin and by courtesy of  
United Artists and Archway Films)

See page 4



## The Incomparable Charlie Chaplin

THE arrival of a new picture from Charlie Chaplin has never failed to excite intense interest among critics and filmgoers. This week the great little man comes to London with *A King in New York*, and it can be taken for granted that controversy will rage once again over the picture and the man.

To celebrate this event Alan Sleath is producing a special television *Film Profile of Charles Chaplin* on Wednesday, the night before the picture has its première. It will sum up Chaplin's contribution to the screen and trace his development since he began making pictures over forty years ago. Extracts will be given from his earliest slapstick comedies and from five of the feature films most characteristic of his style—*The Gold Rush*, *City Lights*, *Modern Times*, *Limelight*, and *Monsieur Verdoux*—and, of course, from *A King in New York*.

Chaplin has given the BBC special permission to use his pictures on television, a sure sign that he recognises the medium as the force it is.

### A Modern Morality

*A King in New York*, which opens in London on Thursday, tells the story of an ex-king of a mythical country who goes to America to sell atomic energy in the cause of peace. Instead he is duped into boosting a new toothpaste on television. His great scheme is turned into ridicule. Thus the film is a modern morality on the uses and abuses of advertisement and the corrupting power of big business in the life of the nations.

I would say that with this picture Chaplin further develops ideas that have simmered in his brain since he first made use of the screen as a criticism of life, and thus gave it adult stature and the dignity of an art form. When he began, about 1910, he was a Mack Sennett comic who fell off ladders, disappeared down man-holes, and collided with custard pies. There was no script. He filmed from life. His baggy trousers, battered bowler and swagger-cane became the symbol of the underdog throughout the world.

He made about seventy of these short comedies before he produced his first long feature, *The Kid*, in 1921, followed by *A Woman of Paris* in 1923, and *The Gold Rush* in 1925. He has made only seven films since, all of them of rare distinction.

ERNEST BETTS

p.a. R 710,549.



THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

EX  
PRC

Date... 4 SEP 1957...

THE TIMES

b4a

9 SEP 1957

**MR. CHAPLIN'S VISIT  
TO LONDON**

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, SEPT. 3

Mr. Charles Chaplin left here for Paris to-night on his way to London, where he will supervise the final arrangements for the *première* of his latest film, *The King in New York*. He arranged a showing of the film in a cinema at Vevey last Sunday for members of his family and friends. Mr. Chaplin, it is stated, is completing his autobiography, which runs to some 300,000 words.

PR. 2.  
look-up

p.a. P.F.

E.S.  
5/9

PR 24  
10/9/57

SECRET

W

4

737

22 MAY 1957

639

Ex  
to disposed  
by  
M.I.F. 1.A.  
28/5/57.

PAR-AVION!  
ABNO!

PAR-AVION



PAR-AVION



To Comrade Monty Johnstone,  
the Editor of 'Challenge',

27 BEDFORD STREET,  
LONDON, W.C.2.  
England.

PA in  
Chapline  
file.  
PF  
28 MAY 1957



175

W.F.B.  
29.5.57  
7



May 22nd, 1957.

SECRET

W

4

737



VI ВСЕМИРНЫЙ ФЕСТИВАЛЬ  
МОЛОДЕЖИ И СТУДЕНТОВ  
ЗА МИР И ДРУЖБУ  
МОСКВА - 1957



Greetings  
and  
best  
wishes!

Кому England,

Кому To: Dear  
Charly Chaplin.

17. V. 1957.

МОСКВА ЖАНУАРИЙ В. В. ДЕННИК И Н. В. СТАЛДНА.  
Почтовый ящик 21. В. Голубов

Почтовый адрес: Москва, СССР.

From: Igor  
Mikhailusenko.  
24 Gorky Street,  
Flat 10. MOSCOW.  
USSR.

To Dear and  
Beloved  
Charly  
Chaplin  
with best wishes  
from  
Igor Mikhailusenko,  
a Moscow  
student.

17. V. 57.

1173

May 22nd, 1957.

SECRET

W

4

737

May, 17<sup>th</sup>, 1957.

To the Editor of "Challenges".

Dear Comrade,

Will you please relay the following message to Charly Chaplin.

Dear Comrade Charly Chaplin,

The Six World Festival of Youth and Students is drawing nearer and we, Moscow Youth and Students should like very much to get your greetings on the occasion of this great event.

We know you as a brilliant cinema-actor of the world and a very fine man. We love you very dearly and, indeed, we send you our own greetings and best wishes!

Long live Friendship,  
long live Peace all over  
the world!

Igor Mikhailusenko,  
a Moscow  
Student.

24 Gorky Street, Flat 10.  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

1177

367/A1/A4 620

ICR UKF120

SECRET

5A 15AP56 1153 23AP56 ELL

YM13 MOSCOU 48 15 1153

ELT CHARLES SPENCER CHAPLIN HOTEL SAVOY LONDON

HARTIEST GREETINGS AND BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GREATEST  
MASTER AND WONDERFUL MAN WITH FRIENDLY FEELINGS AND GREAT  
ESTEEM WE WISH YOU HEALTH HAPPINESS GREAT SUCCESS YOUR NEW FILM  
BEST REGARDS TO CHARMING OONA AND CHILDRED YOURS FOREVER  
BT LUBA ORLOVA GREGORY ALEXANDROFF AR

Handwritten notes and stamps in the bottom right corner, including a red stamp and green ink markings.



PPA  
DIARY  
(16) / EN  
FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date

29 4 56 75

Sunday Express

61b

## The two faces of Chaplin

**W**HAT will Mr. Charles Chaplin be up to next? After that exchange of purring compliments with Krushchev at Claridges, where will he look for fresh publicity?

He might pop up in the news anywhere, on any subject, in any company. For though he recently remarked that he disliked propaganda ("I don't believe in boring people"), he omitted to say that this dislike excluded propaganda on behalf of Charlie.

Has there ever been a more complete master of the art of self-advertisement?

That squeaky voice, those uncertain vowel sounds, that incredibly refined enunciation—they are always busy reminding the world of the existence of Mr. Chaplin.

I observe, however, that Mr. Chaplin is a man of two moods.

Sometimes the squeaky voice is affable and merry so that people wonder how the impression could ever have got around that Mr. Chaplin is a somewhat difficult fellow.

At other times it is surly and disagreeable, rapping the West for building the hydrogen bomb, attacking it for war-mongering, declaring that the only benefits of American civilisation are balanced-diet cat food and high-speed diaper-cleaning services, and announcing that anything Britain has ever done for him can be fully

paid off by a £200 cheque to a benevolent society.

Is there a pattern behind Mr. Chaplin's moods? Is there anything that accounts for this persistent alternation between smile and scowl?

I cannot be sure. But I might be able to help.

At present, he is in London, bouncing with bonhomie. Is it simply coincidence that he is at last about to begin shooting the new picture for which the admirers of Mr. Chaplin have been waiting for so many years?

Or take the time in 1954 when he turned up in Paris to scatter £2,000—the proceeds of a Communist peace prize—to the poor and needy. That was Mr. Chaplin in his happiest vein. And that was also the time when *Modern Times* was being given a new showing in French cinemas.

Or look right back to 1931. It was in that year that Mr. Chaplin refused to take part in a Royal Command Performance in London. A rudeness to royalty you might think? A little stand-offish?

But he was able to come over to Britain a few months earlier, all smiles, all ready to be

Man  
of  
moods



monised, when "City Lights" had its premiere here.

Are these, perhaps, clues to Mr. Chaplin? Do they help to explain his varying moods? As I say, it is impossible to be certain.

But you can be sure of one thing. Mr. Chaplin has a shrewd sense of money values. He is happy in his £150,000 villa in Switzerland where taxes are moderate enough to keep him safely above the poverty line.

So he will continue merely to pop in and out of Britain. The self-advertisement of Mr. Chaplin in this country will continue to be intermittent, switching on and off like an erratic torch. He is never likely to settle down with us long enough to risk attracting the penal attentions of the British income tax authorities.

That is a burden which the British people should be able to bear with fortitude.

Douglas Clark

8.5.56

SECRET

367/41/34 610

*[Handwritten signature and scribbles]*

ICR - UKF 102

HBT 89 DE RCB 52 - 15AP56 - 1223 - .G- 405

TR 414 MOSCOU 47 15 1154 BT

ELT BT CHARLES SPENCER CHAPLIN <sup>SW 200 3/5</sup> SWISSE VEVEY BT

HEARTIEST GREETINGS AND BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
GREATEST MASTER AND WONDERFUL MAN WITH FRIENDLY FEELINGS  
AND GREAT ESTEEM WE WISH YOU HEALTH HAPPINESS GREAT SUCCESS  
YOUR NEW FILM BEST REGARDS TO CHARMING OONA AND CHILDREN  
YOURS FOREVER

BT

LUBA ORLOVA GREGORY ALEXANDROFF

AR

*X 82  
FPS pl.  
EL 27/4*

-2 MAY recd

*[Handwritten signature]*  
21 APR 1956  
*EL/50ml*



LASCAR

TOP SECRET

NOTE: In the absence of instructions to the contrary the original record will be destroyed one month after the date of delivery. Copies not wanted for filing or return to A.2.A. must be destroyed as secret waste, destruction being recorded on the Section Register.

EXTRACT.

60A

Extract for File No.: FF 710,549 Name: CHAPLIN  
From file No.: Unfiled Serial: --- Date of contents: 10.11.55 A.2.A. initials: J.P.  
Extracted on: 11.1.56 by: EMR Section: E6

A.2.A. Ref.: KS.7/313(1)

Responsible Section: E2/F1A

Date of Delivery: 24.11.55

.....

15.47

JOHNNY WILLIAMSON now with RAJI DUTT. On the subject of the ROBESON campaign, BEDFORD had approached HILTON, who although he expressed sympathy, would have nothing to do with it. Actors Equity had agreed to raise it in their Council to assign a non-party person to speak on their behalf. WILLIAMSON had seen CEDRIC BELFRAGE who had spent a day with CHAPLIN in Switzerland.

CHAPLIN had expressed a lot of concern about ROBESON.

WILLIAMSON told DUTT CHAPLIN would be coming here

"within the next two or three weeks"; BEDFORD to get three or four M.P.s to write to him to ask if he will come to a meeting convened by them.

WARNING

No action is to be taken on this material without reference to the responsible section, nor may its contents be disclosed outside the Service without permission.

TOP SECRET



**Secret.**

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

2nd December, 1955.

Dear Mr. Oughton,

Charlie CHAPLIN

We have received the following information from

(a) The private secretary of Charlie CHAPLIN when renewing her British passport at the Consulate General, Geneva, specifically requested that her passport be valid for the U.S.S.R.

(b) She was asked whether she was accompanying Charlie CHAPLIN on a trip to the U.S.S.R. and replied that such a visit was possible though nothing definite had been arranged.

Yours sincerely,

W.H. Oughton, Esq.,  
M.I.5.

ENCL.

REV

- 3 DEC 1955

TO

E.2.

REF.

P. 710 549

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958. April 2011

copied for OF 161/25.

3 MAR 1955

59a

582/B1.

E1  
GAL  
F113

ICR -UKF 120

1.A 18/2/55 1820 21/2/55 RBB

SECRET

1334 LONDON 92 18 1820 =

no see 7/3

ELT CHARLIE CHAPLIN MANOIR DE PAN COESIER SUR VEVEY SUISSE =

DEAR MR CHAPLIN WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS MEETS  
WARSAW POLAND AUGUST 1955 PURPOSE TO BUILD FRIENDSHIP AND  
PEACE AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL COUNTRIES STOP FESTIVAL  
OPEN TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IRRESPECTIVE OPINIONS STOP WE AIM FOR  
BRITISH CONTINGENT SEVERAL HUNDREDS REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL  
NATIONS STOP WOULD WELCOME YOUR PATRONAGE BRITISH CONTINGENT  
AND MESSAGE TO BRITISH YOUTH ON NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING AND  
PEACE STOP SINCERE GOOD WISHES =

STANLEY LEVENSON SECRETARY BRITISH YOUTH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

9 CAMDEN HIGH STREET LONDON NW1 .

SVR  
11/3/53

Cutting from "Daily Worker"

dated 19.7.54.

xR2

21 JUL Recd

sw 21/7

1A  
1B

slu  
**Chaplin dines  
with Chou**  
Chou En-lai, the Chinese Foreign  
Minister, gave a dinner in Geneva  
last night in honour of Mr. and  
Mrs. Charles Chaplin.

(CHAPLIN  
Chou)

21/20/54

21/83  
23/7/54

21/83  
22/7/54



## EXTRACT.

Extract for File No.: PF. 710,549 Name: CHAPLIN, Charles  
 Original in File No.: OF. 492 Serial: 317a Vol.: 13 Receipt Date: 13.11.53.  
 Original from: Int. letter Under Ref.: - Dated: 12.11.53.  
 Extracted on: 25.11.53. by: JW Section: R6

Extract from int. letter from B.P.C. 81, City Rd, London E.C.1. to  
World Council of Peace, Palais SIA, Janska 100, Praha, Czechoslovakia,  
enc. circular re The Bermuda Talks, The World Council of Peace Meeting  
The Report Campaign, The Dean of Canturbury's appeal, The Campaign in  
Britain, mentioning Charles CHAPLIN.

.....CHARLES CHAPLIN

The Leeds session of the General Council enthusiastically approved the Executive's proposal that the B.P.C. should nominate Charles CHAPLIN for this year's World Council of Peace Prize for outstanding contributions in the field of science, literature and the arts.

We are happy to say that Mr CHAPLIN's has indicated his willingness to be considered for this Award.

In making the nomination it would undoubtedly give added pleasure if we could at the same time give a list of outstanding personalities from all parts of this country who express their support. Is there anyone in your area who could be asked? .....

• If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

SECRET

Copy: O.S.2.  
PF.710549 (CHAPLIN)  
File  
L.B.

Seen by B.I. and B.I.G./WMTM  
before despatch.

56a

16th July, 1953.

PF.145246/B.I.B./WJEB

No.3716

Copy: G.T.D. Patterson, Esq.,  
British Embassy,  
Washington.

Dear Mr. Cimperman,

Lawrence Cecil ADLER  
commonly known as Larry ADLER

Would you please refer to your letter dated 27th November, 1951 and to our reply dated 29th November, 1951.

The South African authorities have asked us for information about ADLER as he has applied from 17 Norfolk Road, London for a visa. In his application he stated that he had been in the United Kingdom since 25th June, 1953.

ADLER has never come to adverse notice whilst in this country and his case is therefore analogous to that of Charles Spencer CHAPLIN. As you will recall, you suggested in your letter No.4277-100-594 dated 20th January, 1953 that we should pass to our link in South Africa the information about CHAPLIN which you had previously sent to us. 35a

We should be grateful if you could let us have a note about ADLER which could be given to the South African Police, unless the Bureau would prefer us to suggest to the South African authorities that they should communicate with them direct.

Yours sincerely,

J.A. Cimperman, Esq.,  
American Embassy,  
1 Grosvenor Square,  
London, W.1.

SECRET

J. E. BAGGE

M.J.E. Baggt.

WJEB/MSO

PCHS/KE  
22.7.53  
B.I.B./WJEB  
16.7

COPY

Copied 25.6.53.

Extract for File No.: P.F. 710,549. Name: CHAPLIN.

Original in File No.: P.F. 721,247. MORRIS Edita. Serial: 1a. Vol.: Receipt Date: 19.5.53.

Civil Censorship Austria.  
Original from/to: (British Element) Under Ref.: 860,780. Dated: 7.5.53

Extracted on: 25.6.53. by: JMB. Section: R6.



CONFIDENTIAL

CIVIL CENSORSHIP AUSTRIA ( BRITISH ELEMENT )

POSTAL

VIENNA No. A/P

COMMENT SHEET

DATE :

Vienna No.

Sender : *Richard 2/5*  
\* *Richard 2/5*  
Wien IV.,  
Rachle Wienzeile 29, 3 Bth./11

Addressee : *CH. M. Coma* \* - PF. 710549  
*Monsieur de Ben*  
Coraier sur Vervoy, Schweiz

Date : 6.5.55

Type of Mail : Ausland

Previous Records : A: 858.697

Language : English

Disposal :  
Passed (F) P  
Condemned (C)  
Held (H)  
Excised (E)  
Returned (R)

Registered No.

ENCL  
Re 19 MAY 1955 2615  
TO  
REF

WIDESPREAD RUMORS BRITISH UNDER THE AMBIGUOUS IN KENYA

An Founder: *CH. M.*

".....Hans is very anxious to see your picture (also her your wonderful music) but unfortunately it cannot been seen here ) I spoke with many of our friends about it and do hope that they will get in touch with Charlie and make a fair offer to buy it for the S.U. and China, so that everyone could see it in those countries.

Remember your conversation about the Mau Mau, Gama ? I just got a letter from my friend Edith Morris, the writer. (she is just a good liberal, not more.

Here I am copying her letter, I mean some passages:

"...We have spent half a year in Africa and are as you see in Kenya, following the "atrocities" (committed by the English settlers - not by the Mau-Mau) with horrified interest. In Africa you see imperialism at it's most gruesome - I 'm going to write a novel with an African background but the British take the cake; if possible they are more rapacious and exploiting than the French and the Belgians. All of Africa is one scream of helplessness, one big howl for help - and help they must get - the hundred million exploited, starving, sick Africans - and get it quick. The present "emergency" in Kenya is being endlessly prolonged by the British settlers - a breed of monsters under it's cloak they exterminate at least a couple of hundred Kenya  
P.T.S.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The extremely confidential nature of the information contained in this Comment Sheet must be preserved. The information must be confined to those Officials whose knowledge of it is necessary. It will not be widely distributed or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without the express permission of the Chief Censorship Officer.

1050  
youth a week. And the rest of the world looks on with great complacency. Only after the hope of the Kenyan Africans - their male youth is all slaughtered - will our criminally indifferent world begin to protest - the way they did when Hitler and his brood had finished off the Jews in various concentration camps. Kenya is one big Vernichtungslager. Do speak to everyone about it and beg everyone to come to the help of these voiceless people. An African friend said to us the other day: We are voiceless, they have cut our vocal cords. Speak for us. Tell the world that we are "terrified" -

"Tell this are those damned niggers....."

ENCL

TO

REF

GSI(c) Allocation:  
GSI(b) I (2.)  
Int. Aff. Pub. Saf.  
Foreign Office  
Box 500  
13.5.53



CONFIDENTIAL

546

PF. 710,549/B.1.G/PRC

405/53/9

Commander,  
Special Branch.

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN

462

Further to our letter of 19th February under the above reference, we have been informed by the French that there is no trace of CHAPLIN's birth in either Fontainebleau or Melun area.



P.R. Clapham.

4th May, 1953.  
PRC/JT

CONFIDENTIAL

NY, RC  
6-5-53 31631-  
H. 5-53

53a

50a

hs -1 MAY 1953  
TO BIG 24/5/53  
REF R. 710549



4

has now informed us that

has now informed us that

there is no trace of it. It is not a

P.R. Clapham, Esq.,

M.I.5.

H.O. 16./11.46.



PA in PF 710.549

52a

DAILY WORKER

20. 4. 1953

**Charlie Chaplin  
praises 'dash' in  
union journal**

Daily Worker Industrial Reporter

"YOUR magazine has dash and colour and should be an inspiration to all workers of your union, writes Charlie Chaplin in a letter to Mr. Walter Stevens, general secretary of the Electrical Trades Union.

Charlie, in his letter—published in the April issue of Electron, the union's journal—adds:

"Such publications are edifying and beneficial in many ways to the Labour movement."

The March issue of Electron contained a criticism of the witch-hunt, including several striking passages on the hounding of the great artist by reactionary Americans.

Re PF 710.549

25/4/53

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

*Van y Trail*

7710549  
BIC/PRE  
PA 2/28/4

Date 18.4.53

# CHAPLIN: I AM VICTIM OF VICIOUS LIES



19/5/53  
21/4/53  
14/1/53  
23/4/53



51a

THE CHAPLINS, serious of face, leave London Airport. They landed yesterday from Switzerland. A crowd waited to cheer a welcome.

Daily Mail Reporter PAUL BEWSHER

CHARLIE CHAPLIN last night sat at an hotel window looking over the Thames at twilight to the misty roofs of Lambeth, where he was born, and dictated a statement which will cut him off forever from the United States—his home for 40 years.

It was probably the most utterance ever made by a man who has made more laugh than anyone in the world.

Most vital self-expression.

"Since the end of the last world war I have been the object of lies and vicious propaganda by powerful reactionary groups, who, by their influence and by aid of America's Yellow Press, have created an unhealthy atmosphere, in which liberal-minded individuals can be singled out and persecuted."

### Friends surprised

The declaration's intensity surprised even his best friends.

It was a sudden eruption of the feeling he has had since, while travelling to Britain by liner last autumn, he heard that he would probably not be allowed to return.

American journalists were called to the Savoy Hotel to what was announced as a Press conference.

They, and their British colleagues, were told that Mr. Chaplin would not see any newspaper men.

They were given the statement, which he had written, and dictated, in his suite.

It seemed he had decided to wait until he was in the city of his birth before making the announcement which would change his whole life.

### 'It isn't easy'

An hour after arriving at the hotel he sat at a table overlooking the river, with his wife, Oona, beside him, and began to write the announcement.

He wrote: "It is not easy to uproot myself and my family from a country where I have lived for 40 years without a feeling of sadness."

A tug hooted on the Thames. Evening lights were beginning to twinkle. Chaplin continued his statement about the "lies and vicious propaganda." Then he added:

"Under these conditions I find it virtually impossible to continue my motion-picture work, and I have therefore given up my residence in the United States."

He had broken the final link. His wife went into her room to change for dinner. Chaplin put on his grey Homburg hat and passed, alone and unrecognised, out of the front door of the hotel.

And for an hour he walked sadly through the dancing, coloured "City Lights" of the West End, whose life he had portrayed so faithfully in his last film, "Limelight."

50a

PF. 710,549/B.1.G./PRC

17th April, 1953.

Dear

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN

Please refer to our letter of 19th February. We should be glad to know whether  have been able to give you the information which we requested in our letter.

Yours sincerely,

*RC*

P.R. Clapham.

PRC/JT

*W/RE  
3/25/53  
17 4 53*

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



BIG/PRC  
FROM THE PRESS SECTION. 502

The Times

Date 16. 4. 53

## MR. CHAPLIN'S DECISION

### DOMICILE IN U.S. SURRENDERED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, APRIL 15

The Attorney-General announced today that Mr. Charles Chaplin had last Friday "turned over" his re-entry permit to State Department officials in Switzerland, where the actor is staying temporarily. A Justice Department spokesman later said that Mr. Chaplin's action amounted to a surrender of his domicile in the United States.

If Mr. Chaplin now wanted to return to America, the spokesman added, he would have to seek a return residence visa from the State Department. Like any other alien he would have to prove to the immigration officer that he is qualified for entry. But the department thought that the fact that Mr. Chaplin had an American-born wife, the former Miss Oona O'Neill, and family, and had lived for 40 years in the United States, would probably expedite a visa.

Mr. Chaplin was admitted as an alien for permanent residence in the United States in 1910, and has lived and worked here ever since, but has never applied for naturalization papers. Just before leaving for Europe last September, Mr. McGranery, the then Attorney-General, announced that Mr. Chaplin would not be permitted to re-enter the United States until he had satisfied an immigration officer that he was admissible under the alien laws. Mr. McGranery did not say at the time what evidence the Justice Department had against him, but he did say, among other things, that Mr. Chaplin had been accused many times of being a supporter of Communist causes. Mr. Chaplin countered Mr. McGranery's statement by arguing that his re-entry permit, valid until July 16, amounted to a "moral commitment" by the United States to let him re-enter. But his decision to hand it over last week is taken here as indication that he has now decided not to try to return to America.

4/16  
23/4/53  
BIG 51  
17.4.53

# CHARLIE CHAPLIN DECIDES TO STAY

*Turns in permit to  
return to U.S.*

Daily Worker Reporter

**C**HARLIE CHAPLIN, the man the United States doesn't want, has decided he doesn't want the United States either.

He has surrendered his re-entry permit, Mr. Herbert Brownell, U.S. Attorney-General, announced in Washington yesterday.

Immigration authorities said Mr. Chaplin's action "can be construed as surrender of his domicile in the United States," to which he was admitted as an alien for permanent residence 43 years ago.

Mr. Chaplin had handed in the permit, without comment, to the U.S. authorities in Geneva, where he recently bought a villa.

For some time past the great comedian's outspoken humanism, and his refusal to be cowed by reactionary hysteria, have earned him the hatred of the witch-hunters in America.

The campaign against him came to a head in official action last September when he, his wife Oona and his four children were on their way by sea to visit his native London.

## The peace-monger

President Truman's Attorney-General, Mr. James McGranery, announced then that he had instructed port officials to bar Mr. Chaplin from re-entering the U.S. until he could prove he was admissible under the U.S. alien laws.

Mr. McGranery told journalists his action was prompted in part by "grave moral charges" against Mr. Chaplin and by public charges that he was pro-Communist.

Mr. Chaplin retorted: "I am not a Communist—I am a peace-monger."

He was unruffled. He said he had a re-entry permit which, he considered, entitled him to return at any time.

Public reaction in Europe was immediate and unmistakable, among people of widely varying views. It could be summed up: "If the Americans don't want you we do—and we hope you'll stay."

## Fascist pickets

In the U.S., the campaign against him intensified. The fascist American Legion, by countrywide picketing of his latest film "Limelight," managed to intimidate a number of cinema managers into withdrawing it.

Recently there were signs that the Chaplins would, after all, be staying in Europe. They bought a villa overlooking Lake Geneva, and the Swiss Press reported that Mr. Chaplin was considering building film studios in Switzerland.

There have been reports that Mrs. Chaplin recently went back to Hollywood and brought away five million dollars (nearly £2 million).

Reuter reported from Geneva last night that Mr. Chaplin might make a statement today—his 64th birthday.



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES CHAPLIN

14/10/53  
5/11/53  
B19/SEP  
20/11/53



BURG 482  
FROM THE PRESS SECTION. *RFB*  
*26/2*

*limes*

Date *24.2.53*

U.S. DECISION TO BAR  
\* MR. CHAPLIN

ORDER "STILL IN EFFECT"

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, FEB. 23

*l*  
A spokesman for the Department of Justice indicated to-day that Mr. Brownell, the Attorney-General, would maintain his predecessor's decision to bar Mr. Charles Chaplin from returning to the United States. The spokesman said that Mr. McGranery's order under the Truman Administration had not been reviewed because "there is nothing that needs reviewing." The order was still in effect.

The former Attorney-General, Mr. McGranery, issued the order last September, soon after Mr. Chaplin sailed for England with his wife and four children. They are still abroad. The Attorney-General instructed American port officials to bar Mr. Chaplin from re-entering the United States until he could prove that he was admissible under United States alien laws. Mr. McGranery gave no reason for his action at the time, but he later told a Press conference that it was prompted in part by "grave moral charges" levelled against Mr. Chaplin and by public charges that he was pro-Communist.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chaplin's latest film has just arrived in Washington where cinemas showing it are being subjected to picketing by members of the American Legion in an unsuccessful attempt to discourage prospective spectators.

*St.*  
*Chaplin's*  
*PT*

*24/2*

*l x*  
*12 Rv.*  
*Cat R4*  
*2.3.53*

CONFIDENTIAL

h7a.

PP. 710,549/B.1.G/PRC

19th February, 1953.

Dear [redacted]

~~Charles Spencer CHAPLIN~~  
~~Charlie CHAPLIN~~  
~~Israel THORNSTEIN~~

We were recently asked by the Americans if we could discover whether the original name of Charlie CHAPLIN, the film star, was Israel THORNSTEIN.

Although his claim to have been born in London on 16th April 1889 has been accepted by the Passport Office at least since 16th September 1920, the earliest date of which there is a record of CHAPLIN having been issued with a British passport, we cannot find particulars of his birth at Somerset House under CHAPLIN, THORNSTEIN or HARLEY (the name of his mother, Hannah, known professionally as Lily HARLEY).

Special Branch have been informed by a source which is usually considered fairly reliable that CHAPLIN was born near Fontainebleau on 16th April 1889 and in view of the fact that there is no documentary proof of his birth in U.K. we should be glad if you would ask [redacted] whether they can confirm this information from their records.

Yours sincerely,

n.m.

for P.R. Clapham.

CONFIDENTIAL

PP/15  
20 2 53  
BIC-  
19 2 53

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



CONFIDENTIAL

46a

PF. 710,549/B.1.G/PRC

405/53/9

Commander,  
Special Branch.

44a

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN

Thank you for your report of 11th February.  
In view of your information that CHAPLIN may in fact  
have been born at Fontainebleau, France we are making  
further enquiries through the French authorities and  
shall inform you if we succeed in establishing the  
details of his birth.

P.M.

P.R. Clapham.

19th February, 1953.  
PRC/JT

CONFIDENTIAL

2078/PR  
20.2.53  
8105  
19.2.53

Special Report }

ENCL. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL BRANCH,

12 FEB 1953

TO \_\_\_\_\_

11th. day of February, 1953

REF \_\_\_\_\_

PF 710549

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Charles Spencer

CHAPLIN.

With reference to M.I.5 letter PF 710549/B.1.G/WMPM, dated 5-1-1953, asking for information as to the original name and the date and place of birth of Charles Spencer CHAPLIN, the film star :-

Reference to Papers

405/53/9.

M.I.5 PF.

710549/B.1.G/  
WMPM.

Discreet enquiries have been made and a number of old records on the life of Charles Spencer CHAPLIN have been consulted and as far as can be ascertained it appears that he was born in Kennington, London, on 16th April 1889. His parents are said to have been Charles CHAPLIN, a music hall singer, and Hannah CHAPLIN, a singer and dancer (known professionally as Lily HARLEY).

One source of information, however, which is usually considered fairly reliable, claims that CHAPLIN was born near Fontainebleau, near Paris, on 16th April 1889. There may or may not be some truth in this, but in view of the fact that no documentary proof has been obtained that CHAPLIN was born in the United Kingdom, it may well be that he was in fact born in France.

No information has been obtained as to CHAPLIN's original name and as far as can be ascertained from enquiry in the Motion Picture Industry he has never been known by the name of Israel THORNSTEIN. It is said, however, that he is of German-Jewish origin and that his name at birth was probably other than that by which he has been known since childhood.

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN first came under notice of Special Branch on 21-5-1948 when he was mentioned in a telephone message from M.I.5 to this Department as having sent Arthur W. KELLY, vice - president of United Artists Film Producers, to this country from America to get his (CHAPLIN's) frozen assets out of the United Kingdom. CHAPLIN is also said to have authorised KELLY to give money to Left-Wing groups in England. Subsequent



enquiry by Special Branch shows that no evidence was obtained to confirm this information, which originated from American sources (405/48/249 dated 21-5-1948 and 5-7-1948 refers).

There is no mention of Israel THORNSTEIN in Special Branch records.

R. Hecla.

Sergeant.

Submitted.

Chief Inspector.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.

SECRET.

43a

IP.710549/B.1.

4th February, 1953.

No.C.12/4/2745.

Dear General Brink,

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN.

Towards the end of last year you asked us for such security information as we might have on record about "Charlie" CHAPLIN. I replied in my letter of the 10th December, 1952, that we had no trace of him in our own records and were "not satisfied that there are any reliable grounds for regarding him as a security risk".

At the request of the F.B.I., to whom I understand you also addressed an enquiry about CHAPLIN, I am sending you three memoranda, marked respectively A, B, and C, with which they have supplied us. You will notice that these contain divergences in detail.

The F.B.I. have additionally informed us that it has been alleged that CHAPLIN's original name was Israel THORNSTEIN. This we have not been able to confirm; nor can we trace any record of his birth in London. They also asked us whether we had knowledge of a laudatory reference to CHAPLIN

/alleged

1112 24  
7/2/53.



SECRET.

- 2 -

alleged to have been made in 'Pravda'. This we were not able to trace, but the 'Pravda' files to which we had access were not complete. He did not come to adverse security notice while in England last year. Our recent information is that he has settled in Lausanne in Switzerland, and has recently paid a visit to Rome. X

*B*

For Sir Percy Sillitoe.

Major General J.A.Brink,  
Commissioner of South African Police,  
P.O.Box 449,  
Pretoria,  
South Africa.

3 encls.

Copy to S.L.O. Central Africa.  
O.S.3.  
File. ✓  
B.I.G.



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy  
1, Grosvenor Square  
London, W. 1  
January 20, 1953

35-9  
ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

2 JAN 1953

No. 4277-100-594

Dear Mr. White,

Re: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN,  
with aliases

Please refer to my letter dated October 20, 1952, in which I provided available information regarding Charles Spencer CHAPLIN and your reply dated November 18, 1952. This is your reference PF.710549/D.B.

I have just now received a further report from the Bureau containing additional information regarding CHAPLIN. It appears that he entered the United States at New York City for permanent residence on October 12, 1912. Although there is no record of his birth at London, England, he stated, under oath in 1948, that he was born in London on April 16, 1889. He has left and returned to the United States on several occasions, the last time being in 1936. He is presently in Switzerland where, according to news dispatches, he has rented a house overlooking Lake Geneva.

The Bureau also informs that a high-ranking Communist functionary stated that, in 1936, CHAPLIN was "the equivalent of a member of the Party"; that he adhered to the Party; gave financial aid to the Party and has been a member of Communist-front groups. Another former member and functionary of the Communist Party stated, under oath in 1952, that he knew CHAPLIN was a member at large of the Communist Party from 1935 to 1941. Other sources state he has been a member, sponsor, or affiliated with several Communist groups or groups controlled or influenced by the Communist Party. He has associated with persons reported to be or to have been Communist Party members and has exhibited a friendly attitude toward Soviet Russia.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

Sincerely yours,

*J. A. Cimperman*

J. A. Cimperman  
Legal Attache

Mr. Dick White  
Leconfield House  
Curzon Street  
London, W. 1

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL



COPY

October 20, 1952

RE: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN, also known  
as Charlie CHAPLIN, alias Israel  
THORNSTEIN

According to a December, 1923 report, it was confidentially reported that CHAPLIN was identified as being a member of the "Severance Club," whose membership consisted of wealthy radicals of the "Parlor Bolseviki" type.

On January 10, 1923, a confidential informant advised that a \$1,000 donation was made just before Christmas in 1922 to the Communist Party, USA. However, no record was made of it and the donor's identity was withheld. The informant pointed out, however, that it was generally understood that the money came from CHAPLIN. In this connection, one Communist had advised the informant that CHAPLIN did make it but does not want it to be known.

Information was received on December 19, 1939, that Raphael RUSH of 11218 Victory Boulevard, North Hollywood, California, was an International Comrade, and had been placed in contact with the movie colony for the purpose of raising funds for "A Soviet America to come." According to the information furnished, CHAPLIN was one of those who had contributed liberally.

An informant advised on August 6, 1942, that never in the history of the Communist Party have the hidden intellectual membership "thrown all caution to the wind and come out in the open for the very things the Party is demanding." He then followed this report with a list of Communist members who were in this group of intellectuals, and included the name of Charlie CHAPLIN in it.

It was learned on June 19, 1942, that one Vincent DOBRICH said on one occasion, "Sure, I'm a registered Communist. So is Harry Bridges. You take that guy Charlie Chaplin. He is a real guy. He is a member of the Party. Only a couple of weeks ago he gave a speech at a Communist meeting in San Francisco."

It was learned on December 7, 1942, that CHAPLIN was in Chicago. While he was in Chicago, he contacted Howard LAWRENCE, Midwest representative of "The Daily Worker." According to the information received, CHAPLIN had worked closely with LAWRENCE in connection with the "Salute to Russian Allies Rally" on November 25, 1942. The place this rally was held was not given.

An informant advised on an unknown date that CHAPLIN had contributed \$750 to the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated.

An informant advised that on October 24, 1943, Gregori KHEIFETS, alleged Soviet espionage agent, arrived in Los Angeles, California, from San Francisco. Among the people he contacted was CHAPLIN, whom he saw at a dinner party given by Mikhail KOLOTOZOV. KHEIFETS has been identified as a Soviet espionage agent and said that CHAPLIN was "doing a great work."

An informant advised on February 15, 1944, that Gregori KHEIFETS, previously identified, advised him that CHAPLIN had done much for the Party and on account of his efforts they were attempting to deport him at that time.

On April 18 and 21, 1947, an informant advised that CHAPLIN may or may not be a member of the Communist Party. However, he is extremely cooperative and to some extent controlled by the Party. The informant added that CHAPLIN will always go along with the Party and has helped it financially. He felt that CHAPLIN had financially aided the Communist West Coast paper, "The People's World."



In a statement made by Joan BERRY on January 7, 1944, in connection with CHAPLIN's violation of the White Slave Traffic Act, Miss BERRY alleges that CHAPLIN had informed her that he had been offered a position in Russia as a Commisar, and that he had told her that he had given some thought of going back to Russia.

unc Rg  
9/2/53



Re: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN was born on April 16, 1889, in London, England. He entered the United States at New York City for permanent residence on October 12, 1912. He has maintained his residence in the United States since this time with the exception of two trips abroad. He has remained a citizen of Great Britain over this period of time and is presently traveling in Europe on British passport. He is currently married to Oona O'Neill Chaplin. He is the father of six children and is a well-known movie actor, director and producer.

In the late 1930's Chaplin was considered by the leadership of the Communist Party, USA, as "the equivalent of a member of the Party."

In August, 1943, Chaplin attended a gathering of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship in Los Angeles. This gathering was for the purpose of meeting Mr. Mikhail Kalstozov, visiting envoy from the Soviet film industry. Chaplin introduced Kalstozov after making a speech in which he said, "There is a great deal of good in Communism. We can use the good and segregate the bad." Charles Chaplin, in 1943, donated the sum of \$500 to the National Council of American Soviet Friendship and \$250 to the Los Angeles Council of American Soviet Friendship. (The National Council of American Soviet Friendship has been cited as a subversive and Communist organisation by the Attorney General of the United States.)

Charles Chaplin was one of the original Sponsors of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship.

In 1942, Chaplin donated the sum of \$1,250 to the Russian War Relief Association.

In 1941, Chaplin was one of the original sponsors and served on the National Committee of the Russian War Relief. (The Committee on Un-American Activities in California in 1949 report states that the Russian War Relief was one of the more important Communist Party front organisations.)

Charles Chaplin has associated in the past with several Russian Government officials and entertained them in his home in Beverly Hills, California.

On November 25, 1942, Charles Chaplin was the principal speaker at a "Salute to our Russian Ally Rally" held in Chicago, Illinois. His speech was a glorification of Soviet Russia during which he said, "If we want to win this war, if we want to have the cooperation of Russia, let us stop this anti-Communist propaganda."

In the March 13, 1944, issue of the Daily Peoples World, a west coast Communist newspaper, there is contained an article in which Chaplin was described as "a warm friend of the Soviet Union since 1917 and the first Hollywood star to come out for American Soviet friendship."

January 20, 1953

Re: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN,  
with aliases

Please refer to my letter dated October 20, 1952, in which I provided available information regarding Charles Spencer CHAPLIN.

It appears that he entered the United States at New York City for permanent residence on October 12, 1912. Although there is no record of his birth at London, England, he stated, under oath in 1948, that he was born in London April 16, 1889. He has left and returned to the United States on several occasions, the last time being in 1936. He is presently in Switzerland where, according to news dispatches, he has rented a house overlooking Lake Geneva.

The Bureau also informs that a high-ranking Communist functionary stated that, in 1936, CHAPLIN was "the equivalent of a member of the Party;" that he adhered to the Party; gave financial aid to the Party and has been a member of Communist-front groups. Another former member and functionary of the Communist Party stated, under oath in 1952, that he knew CHAPLIN was a member at large of the Communist Party from 1935 to 1941. Other sources state he has been a member, sponsor, or affiliated with several Communist groups or groups controlled or influenced by the Communist Party. He has associated with persons reported to be or to have been Communist Party members and has exhibited a friendly attitude towards Soviet Russia.



## EXTRACT.

34c.

Extract for File No.: PF. 710,549. Name: CHAPLIN.Original in File No.: Unfiled. Serial: \_\_\_\_\_ Vol: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt Date: 19.1.53.Original from: Inward Saving Telegram. Under Ref: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_Extracted on: 29.1.53. by: PMR. Section: R6.

Extract from Inward Saving Telegram, Italy: Fortnightly Summary for  
Period 16th-13th December, 1952, from Rome to F.O. ment. CHAPLIN.

.....

FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

.....

10. Mr. Charles CHAPLIN arrived in Rome on 19th December and was everywhere received with great popular enthusiasm. The Italian Government, torn between fears of offending the Americans and of letting "Charlot" be exploited by the Communists - who in any case did their best - overwhelmed him with official courtesies, banquets and medals. The "Director-General of Entertainments", among whose achievements in bygone days was the banning of "The Great Dictator", never let Mr. Chaplin out of his sight. The first night of "Limelight" was attended by the President of the Republic and most of the higher authorities.

DAPE  
 12/12/53  
 3/2/53

• If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

## EXTRACT.

Extract for File No.: EE. 710549 Name: CHAPLIN.  
 Original in File No.: Unfiled. Serial: \_\_\_\_\_ Vol: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt Date: 19.1.53.  
 Original from: I.S. telegram Under Ref: No. 1 Saving. Dated: 5.1.53.  
 Extracted on: 22.1.53. by: DMO Section: B.1.B.

Extract from Inward Saving Telegram from Rome to Foreign Office  
 mentioning CHAPLIN.

Italy: Fortnightly Summary.

Foreign Affairs.

10. Mr. Charles Chaplin arrived in Rome on 19th December and was everywhere received with great popular enthusiasm. The Italian Government, torn between fears of offending the Americans and of letting "Charlot" be exploited by the Communists - who in any case did their best - overwhelmed him with official courtesies, banquets and medals. The "Director-General of Entertainments," among whose achievements in bygone days was the banning of "The Great Dictator", never let Mr. Chaplin out of his sight. The first night of "Limelight" was attended by the President of the Republic and most of the higher authorities.

.....

13222-4353 43440-16.

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

28/RE

B16/SH  
29/1/53



SECRET

✓File.  
L.B.

34a

PF 710549/B.1.B./MJEB.

16 January 1953.

Dear [redacted]

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN.

With reference to your telephone enquiry yesterday, you may care to inform [redacted] 33a.  
[redacted] that we have no information of our own about CHAPLIN and that we consider that there are no reliable grounds for regarding him as a security risk.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]  
M. J. E. Bagot.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

(Sent after discussion with B.1.)

MJEB/MFC.

SECRET

✓  
19/1/53  
16/1/53

33a

NOTE.

[redacted] M.I.6., rang up at 17.35 yesterday  
regarding a telegram they had received from [redacted]  
[redacted] which ran as follows:-

"Charlie CHAPLIN now settled in Lausanne  
Police area. [redacted] likely to ask  
whether we regard with suspicion subject's  
political views and affiliations. What line  
should I take?"

[redacted] asked if we could suggest a reply  
indicating whether he did or did not associate with  
Communists in this country and whether he had been connected  
with Communist front organisations.

B.1.B.  
16.1.53.

*M.J.E. Bagot.*  
M.J.E. Bagot.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

*16/1*  
*Q. R. 18. 12/1*  
*16/1*



31a  
FOR STOTT

January 7, 1953

RE: <sup>X</sup> CHARLES SPENCER CHAPLIN <sup>S.W. 049 11</sup>

8570

Charles Spencer Chaplin was born on April 16, 1889, in London, England. He entered the United States at New York City for permanent residence on October 12, 1912. He has maintained his residence in the United States since this time with the exception of two trips abroad. He has remained a citizen of Great Britain over this period of time and is presently traveling in Europe on British passport. He is currently married to Oona O'Neill Chaplin. He is the father of six children and is a well-known movie actor, director, and producer.

In the late 1930's Chaplin was considered by the leadership of the Communist Party, USA, as "the equivalent of a member of the Party."

In August, 1943, Chaplin attended a gathering of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship in Los Angeles. This gathering was for the purpose of meeting Mr. Mikhail Kalatozov, visiting envoy from the Soviet film industry. Chaplin introduced Kalatozov after making a speech in which he said, "There is a great deal of good in Communism. We can use the good and segregate the bad." Charles Chaplin,

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

*Handwritten signature*  
19/1

in 1943, donated the sum of \$500 to the National Council of American Soviet Friendship and \$250 to the Los Angeles Council of American Soviet Friendship. (The National Council of American Soviet Friendship has been cited as a subversive and Communist organization by the Attorney General of the United States.)

Charles Chaplin was one of the original sponsors of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship.

In 1942, Chaplin donated the sum of \$1,250 to the Russian War Relief Association.

In 1941, Chaplin was one of the original sponsors and served on the National Committee of the Russian War Relief. (The Committee on Un-American Activities in California in 1949 report states that the Russian War Relief was one of the more important Communist Party front organizations.)

Charles Chaplin has associated in the past with several Russian Government officials and entertained them in his home in Beverly Hills, California.

On November 25, 1942, Charles Chaplin was the principal speaker at a "Salute to our Russian Ally Rally" held in Chicago, Illinois. His speech was a glorification of Soviet Russia during which he said, "If we want to win this war, if we want to have the cooperation of Russia, let us stop this anti-Communist propaganda."

In the March 13, 1944, issue of the Daily Peoples World, a west coast Communist newspaper, there is contained an article in which Chaplin was described as "a warm friend of the Soviet Union since 1917 and the first Hollywood star to come out for American Soviet friendship."



Our cash/1 of January 2 and your DS/6000  
January 5th refer.

314

*Forwarded with the Compliments  
of the British Embassy,*

*Washington, D.C.*

ENCLOSURE 2 papers  
JR 12 JAN 1953

TO BIG.

REF PF 710, 549, 3

ROUTINE - SECRET.

**SECRET TELEGRAM FOR DESPATCH IN CIPHER/CLEAR**

To: SLO Washington

Office File No. FF 710549 Section of Origin D.B.

Date 5.1.53 Signed D

Copy to O.S.3  
(Cleared with D.O.S.)

Inf.

Reference your letter  
our ~~telegram~~ No. WASH/1 of 2.1.53

Your para.2 - no objection.

*Seen by R.I.*

*R 3 for para. 2  
FF 710549*

D.S. 6000		DATE 5.1.52
ENCRYPTED BY		
CHECKED BY		T/P.

The text of this telegram is **Unparaphrased**, and must not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters, or re-transmitted, even in cipher without being **Paraphrased**. Messages marked 'O.T.P.' need not be paraphrased.



THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

CONFIDENTIAL

28a

PF.710549/B.1.G/WMTM

Commander,  
Special Branch.

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN

We were recently asked by the Americans if we could discover whether the original name of Charlie CHAPLIN, the film star, was Israel THORNSTEIN. Although his claim to have been born in London on 16th April 1889 has been accepted by the Passport Office at least since 16th September 1920, the earliest date of which there is a record of CHAPLIN having been issued with a British passport, we cannot find particulars of his birth at Somerset House.

This suggests that his name at birth may not have been CHAPLIN, or, alternatively, that his birth did not take place in this country. We should be very grateful to receive any comments that you may have on his origin. We have no Security information of our own to his detriment, but in view of the American allegations we would at least like to clear up this point.

D  
W.M.T.Magan.

5th January 1953

LDG/RE

BIG/SH  
6/1/53



CONFIDENTIAL

26a

Copy for S.L.O. Central  
Africa

Copy for O.S.3.

PP.710549/B.1.G/PER

10th December 1952

G.12/4/2745

Dear General Brink,

Charles CHAPLIN

Thank you for your letter of the 15th November,  
1952 about the above.

We have no trace in our own records of this  
man, nor are we satisfied that there are any reliable  
grounds for regarding him as a security risk.

Yours sincerely,



for Sir Percy Sillitoe

Major General J. A. Brink,  
Commissioner of South African Police,  
P.O. Box 449, Pretoria.

PER/HC

Des/RE

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy to: O.S.3.  
Central Africa.

24

**Draft Letter/Minute to:**

Major General J.A. Brink,  
Commissioner of South African Police,  
P.O. Box 449, Pretoria.

**Approved by**

**Date** 6.12.52.

**No. of Copies**

**Our Ref.** PF. 710549

**Their Ref.** C.12/4/2745

**Despatched on**

**For Signature by**

**Date** 6.12.52.

Dear

Charles CHAPLIN.

Thank you for your letter of the 15th November,  
1952, about the above.

We have no trace in our own records of this  
man, nor are we satisfied that there are any <sup>reliable</sup> ~~reasonable~~  
*regarding him as a security risk.*  
grounds for ~~supporting the allegation that he is a Communist~~  
~~sympathiser.~~

Yours sincerely,

for Sir Percy Sillitoe.

*Des/te*



P.O. Box } 449.  
Posbus }

Telegraphic Address } "COMPOL."  
Telegramadres }



S.A.P. 51.

In subsequent correspondence please  
quote:  
Vermeld in latere korrespondensie  
asb.:  
No. C.12/4/2745

**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE.  
SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIE.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
HCOFKWARTIER,

PRETORIA.

15th November, 1952.

Dear Sir,

RE : CHARLES CHAPLIN.

I have the honour to inform you that  
according to press reports lately, Mr Charles Chaplin,  
the British comedian, expressed the hope to visit the  
Union during the course of next year.

According to these press reports the above-  
named is described as somebody who is tainted with com-  
munism.

In view of the above, I shall be glad to  
receive any information from a security viewpoint, re-  
garding the above-named, which you may have on record.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
ADJUNK-KOMMISSARIS  
DEPUTY-COMMISSIONER  
f/ACT: COMMISSIONER OF THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE.

Sir Percy Sillitoe, K.B.E.,  
Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

*12/25/RE*

*24/10/52*

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



199  
SECRET.

PF.710549/D.B.

18th November, 1952.

No.4169-100-594.

Dear Mr.Cimperman,

Charles Spencer CHAPLIN,  
@ Charles CHAPLIN  
@ Israel THORNSTEIN.

Please refer to your letter about the above-named of 20th October last. As I think you are already aware, we have no trace in our records of Charlie CHAPLIN and in consequence the answer to the questions contained in the first sentence of the last paragraph of your letter is in the negative.

I have had a search made for references to CHAPLIN in Pravda during the period 1944 to 1947 inclusive. This search was not I am afraid a complete one since the files of Pravda to which we had access were themselves not complete. We were however unable to discover the quotation mentioned in your letter.

We can find no evidence that CHAPLIN's name is or ever has been Israel THORNSTEIN, nor can we find any evidence of the existence of such a person. Although CHAPLIN's claim to have been born in London on 16th April 1889 has been accepted by the Passport Office since 16th September 1920, the earliest date of which there is a record of CHAPLIN having been issued with a British passport, we cannot trace particulars of his birth at Somerset House. This suggests that his name at birth may not have been CHAPLIN, or that his birth did not take place in this country. We have however been unable to discover any other name by which he has been known.

All known British passports held by CHAPLIN were issued by our Consulates in New York or Los Angeles. Neither of these has retained his old passports and I  
J.A.Cimperman, Esq.,  
American Embassy.

12/12 1952 /cannot ...

cannot therefore say whether these reflected his travel in or to the Soviet Union at any time. It does not however appear that any of these passports were endorsed for the U.S.S.R. As of possible interest, you may care to have the following summary of the passports held by him, of which the first mentioned appears to be current:-

No.C.283076 issued by the British Consulate in Los Angeles on 16.2.1948. Endorsed for British Empire, Europe and U.S.A.

No.45273 issued by the British Consulate in New York on 10.2.1931, endorsed for British Empire, U.S.A. Also a European endorsement.

No.8896 issued by the British Consulate in New York on 16.9.1920. Endorsed for "France, Belgium, etc."

It appears that passport No.45273 was endorsed in London on 6.3.31 for "China etc."

Yours sincerely,

D. G. WHITE





PF.552

SECRET

16a  
BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ENCL           

To: Director-General

BI 23/10 JR.

17 NOV 1952

TO BI

Subject: Charlie CHAPLIN

REF PF. 710, 549

Would you please refer to your PF.710549/B.1 dated October 27, 1952 and to our PF.551 of November 4th.

Enquiries have now been made of our Consulates in New York and Los Angeles and I am sorry to say that neither has any information which is of any use to us. New York destroy old passports after two years. Los Angeles seem to think that CHAPLIN's old passport was cancelled and returned to the holder when he was issued with a new one early in 1948.

I am sorry that I have been unable to trace the passports you require.

November 12, 1952

G.T.D. Patterson

SECRET

FILE  
19/11

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011



15a

WJ  
I checked the copies of "Pravda" of the period 1944 - 1947 incl. There are big gaps in the collection. Eleven monthly sets are missing. Apart from that many separate daily copies are missing also. Therefore, I think, the exactness of my work is rather insufficient.

In the copies I read there is no evidence of Mr.Ch.Ch.'s direct membership of any communist or pro-communist organisation. On the other hand there are particulars giving evidence of the sympathy of communists or of communist or pro-communist organisations for Mr.Ch.Ch. as well as of Mr.Ch.Ch. for the ideology represented by so called "progressive" elements of U.S.A.

On 12th July, 1944 the American "Front of the Progressive Americans" has been organised. ("Pravda" 16th July, 1944)

7 Persecution  
On 15th June, 1947 "Pravda" published a telegram under headline "Prosecution of Mr.Ch.Ch. in U.S.A." referring to the motion demanding a deportation of Mr.Ch.Ch. put by a congressman John Rankin. The same telegram informed that Mr.Ch.Ch. and other Hollywood actors would face the Congress Investigation Committee because of their communist activity. "Pravda" published Mr.Ch.Ch.'s statement concerning Mr. John Rankin's motion. Mr.Ch.Ch. said: "It is an usual fascist way directed towards suppression of freedom of word as well as of possibility of free expression of ideas by films". ("Pravda" 15th June, 1947, page 4, col.4-5)

On 4th October, 1947, Ilya Ehrenbourg mentioned the name of Mr.Ch.Ch. in his article "The writer's voice" ("Pravda", 4th October, 1947, page 3, col.1)

On 21st October, 1947 fifteen Hollywood actors signed a protest against the Congress Investigation Committee. "Pravda" did not mention the name of Mr.Ch.Ch. Only six of fifteen names have been mentioned. ("Pravda", 25th October, 1947, page 4, col.4/).

On 25th October, 1947 the pro-communist organisations of U.S.A. organised a great meeting at New York. The name of Mr.Ch.Ch. was mentioned during the debate by one of the leaders of "Progressive Americans Organisation" ("Pravda", 29th October, 1947, page 4, col.4/).

In November 1947 many American organisations have been

P.F.O.

WJ  
19/11  
MD 137  
13/11/6

them. "Pravda", 6th December, 1947, page 3, - col. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 8



**SECRET**

B.1. - Mr. Marriott.

*pa to await further info  
from Patterson.*

*15a.*

*15/11*

*96*

Reference your loose minute of 22.10.52, I asked [redacted] to help us in this matter. He put two of his Russian translators to go through the back numbers of the "Pravda", and I attach the result of their research work.

I told [redacted] that we were most grateful.

B.4.D.  
12.11.52.

*F.C. Derbyshire*  
F.C. Derbyshire.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. *April 2011*



14a.

PF.551

SECRET

BRITISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON

To: Director-General

Subject: Charlie CHAPLIN

ENCL       

10 NOV 1952

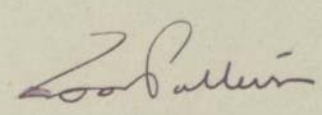
TO BI

REF PF 710.549

Would you please refer to your PF.710549/B.1 dated October 27, 1952. — 10a,

I have consulted our local Consul who told me that it is normal Consular procedure to destroy out of date passports "every year or so". In other words, when any Consul accumulates a bunch of expired passports he will burn them so that they do not clutter up his office. I am, however, causing enquiries to be made in New York and Los Angeles in order to make quite certain that CHAPLIN's passports have not been retained for one reason or another. If by any chance either Consul has any information to impart to us I shall of course forward it to you immediately.

November 4, 1952

  
G.T.D. Patterson

SECRET

10/11  
19/11  
10/11  
10/11



30th October 1952

Re:- Charles CHAPLIN, THORNSTEIN or HARLEY

13a

The various directories show Chaplin's name to be CHARLES SPENCER CHAPLIN, born 16.4.1889, London, the son of Charles Chaplin and his wife Hannah (professionally known as Lily HARLEY).

I have searched at Somerset House the relevant indexes of births for England & Wales but could find no record of any person of the above-mentioned surnames with the Christian name Charles, Charles Spencer or Israel born 16.4.1889.

It would seem that Chaplin was either not born in this Country or that his name at birth was other than those mentioned.

So

B.1. (Mr J. H. Marriott)

Your memo., Gen., dated 22.10.1952 refers.

*D. Storrier*  
D. Storrier

B.5.  
31.10.1952  
2724

*Dylke*  
19/11

61787  
31/10/52

SECRET

Copy to O.S.2.

12a.

PF.710549/B.1.

G.T.D.Patterson Esq.,  
British Embassy,  
Washington, D.C.

---

Please refer to your telegram,  
WASH/68 of 4.10.52. We have now been asked  
by Cimperman, inter alia, whether Charlie  
CHAPLIN's surrendered British passports, if  
available, reflect his travel to the Soviet  
Union at any time.

Passport records here show that  
CHAPLIN has held the following passports, of  
which the first mentioned appears to be current:-

No.C.283076, issued by the British Consulate  
in Los Angeles on 17.2.1948. Endorsed for  
British Empire, Europe and U.S.A.

No.45273, issued by the British Consulate  
in New York on 10.2.1931, endorsed for  
British Empire, U.S.A. Also a European  
endorsement.

SECRET

Duffe  
19/11

187  
29/11/52



No.3896, issued by the British Consulate  
in New York on 16.9.20. Endorsed for "France  
Belgium etc."

It appears that passport No.45273 was endorsed  
in London on 6.3.31 for "China etc."

It is not known whether the two earlier passports  
were handed back to CHAPLIN or whether, if they were  
retained by the Consulat, they have been preserved. I  
should be grateful if you could make local enquiries on  
this point and if these passports are still in existence  
let me know the details of any journeys to the U.S.S.R.  
that may appear thereon.

J. H. Morrell

For Director General.

27th October, 1952.

Box 500

11A

CHAPLIN. Charles Spencer.

Please see copy of Consular record  
Los Angeles California

C 283076/48

attached.

& City of New York C 45273/31

attached

This passport was endorsed in  
London in 1931. End 45274 file  
since destroyed see copy of record  
attached

Previously held passport issued  
in New York in 1920.

We have no Consular records  
prior to 1923.

Consular Passport New York 8896/1920

was Endorsed here in 1921.

See record of End 277247 attached

This file also destroyed.

No other trace

W. Holloman  
28.10.52

22/10/52



Copy

M. Index.

1921.

CHAPLIN.

E

Charles S.

New York 8896/20.

France Belgium Etc.

277247.

Copy

New York 10. 2. 1931.

CHAPLIN

Previous Passport 8896 issued

New York 16. 9. 1920.

Charles. Spencer.

London.

16 4. 1889.

41.

45273.

British Empire U.S.A.

European Endorsement

	6. 3. 1931. Local End. London.	6071. CHAPLIN.
	E. London. 16 4. 89.	Charles Spencer.
	45273/31. New York	
	China Etc. 452274	

	Los Angeles California 17. 2 1948	COPY CHAPLIN.
	45273 New York 10. 2. 1931.	Charles Spencer.
	London. 16 4. 1889.	58.
	C 283076. British Empire Europe and U.S.A. 5 years	



# REQUEST FOR PASSPORT OR PERMIT PAPERS.

10A

R.1 (LONDON) for H.O. representative.

Please obtain: ~~LATEST PASSPORT FILE~~ ☐ ~~LATEST PERMIT FILE~~ ☐  
All Passport and permit papers in existence.  
(Mark item(s) required.)

for the following:—

OUR FILE No.: Gen/B.1.

SURNAME: CHAPLIN (Name may originally have been Israel THORNSTEIN.)

CHRISTIAN NAMES: Charles

PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH: Believed 16th April, 1889, London.

PROFESSION: Film Actor.

ADDRESS: Normally, United States of America.

\*PARTICULARS OF TRAVEL ABROAD:

ENCL 4 Pages

24 OCT 1952  
TO B1

REF PF 710,549

\*NUMBER AND DATE OF PASSPORT:

Section.....B.1......

Signature.....Mary Fitzmaurice,  
J.H. Marriott.

Date.....22.10.52......

S. Form 101

\* Where known.

D/L  
19/11  
B1  
23/10/52  
25/10/52

96

B.4.D., Captain Derbyshire.

I believe that [ ] keeps back copies of PRAVDA, and I believe also that he has an extensive card index of personalities mentioned therein. On the basis of this belief, I wonder whether you could ask him if he can trace any reference to Charles CHAPLIN (doubtless known to you as a film star) and in particular a reference which I understand appeared at some unknown date prior to October, 1947, in which an allegation is made that he had joined the American Communist Party.

B.1.  
22.10.52.

J.H.Marriott.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. April 2011

DULFE  
19/11





THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy  
1, Grosvenor Square  
London, W. 1  
October 20, 1952

Rec'd 21.10.52

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

No. 4169-100-594

Dear Mr. White,

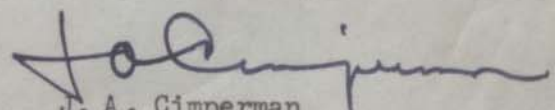
Re: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN, also known  
as Charlie CHAPLIN, alias Israel  
THORNSTEIN

Pursuant to our discussion on October 17, 1952, there is attached a memorandum dated October 20, 1952, summarizing available information regarding the above person who was born in London, England, on April 16, 1889, and who has been active in the theatrical business since the age of seven. CHAPLIN went to the United States in 1910 and, although he never became a citizen, he has resided there since that time.

It is stated that an unknown issue of "PRAVDA" allegedly contains "an enthusiastic tribute to CHAPLIN as a Communist and friend of humanity in connection with the first production of a CHAPLIN film in Russia." This issue of "PRAVDA" is apparently dated before October, 1947, and is alleged to have given "a great boost to 'Comrade Charlie' as one of those whose heart was on the right side, and, according to the latest reports from America, had joined the Communist Party." If possible, I would appreciate your locating and providing me with a copy of this publication.

I would also appreciate receiving any information you may have which would tend to confirm CHAPLIN's actual Communist Party membership or the fact that he is or has been regarded by national or international Communist Party functionaries as the "equivalent of a Party member"; also, whether there is any information which would confirm CHAPLIN's financial and/or cultural contributions to the Communist movement. Lastly, could you also ascertain whether CHAPLIN's correct name is Israel THORNSTEIN, as has been alleged, and whether his surrendered British passports, if available, reflect his travel in or to the Soviet Union at any time.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. A. Cimperman  
Legal Attache

Enclosure  
Mr. Dick White  
Leconfield House  
Curzon Street  
London, W. 1

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

THC RB  
23/10/52



October 20, 1952

RE: Charles Spencer CHAPLIN, also known  
as Charlie CHAPLIN, alias Israel  
THORNSTEIN

According to a December, 1923 report, it was confidentially reported that CHAPLIN was identified as being a member of the "Severance Club," whose membership consisted of wealthy radicals of the "Parlor Bolseviki" type.

On January 10, 1923, a confidential informant advised that a \$1,000 donation was made just before Christmas in 1922 to the Communist Party, USA. However, no record was made of it and the donor's identity was withheld. The informant pointed out, however, that it was generally understood that the money came from CHAPLIN. In this connection, one Communist had advised the informant that CHAPLIN did make it but does not want it to be known.

Information was received on December 19, 1939, that Raphael RUSH of 11218 Victory Boulevard, North Hollywood, California, was an International Comrade, and had been placed in contact with the movie colony for the purpose of raising funds for "A Soviet America to come." According to the information furnished, CHAPLIN was one of those who had contributed liberally.

An informant advised on August 6, 1942, that never in the history of the Communist Party have the hidden intellectual membership "thrown all caution to the wind and come out in the open for the very things the Party is demanding." He then followed this report with a list of Communist members who were in this group of intellectuals, and included the name of Charlie CHAPLIN in it.

It was learned on June 19, 1942, that one Vincent DOBRICH said on one occasion, "Sure, I'm a registered Communist. So is Harry Bridges. You take that guy Charlie Chaplin. He is a real guy. He is a member of the Party. Only a couple of weeks ago he gave a speech at a Communist meeting in San Francisco."

It was learned on December 7, 1942, that CHAPLIN was in Chicago. While he was in Chicago, he contacted Howard LAWRENCE, Midwest representative of "The Daily Worker." According to the information received, CHAPLIN had worked closely with LAWRENCE in connection with the "Salute to Russian Allies Rally" on November 25, 1942. The place this rally was held was not given.

**SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET**



An informant advised on an unknown date that CHAPLIN had contributed \$750 to the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated.

An informant advised that on October 24, 1943, Gregori KHEIFETS, alleged Soviet espionage agent, arrived in Los Angeles, California, from San Francisco. Among the people he contacted was CHAPLIN, whom he saw at a dinner party given by Mikhail KOLOTOZOV. KHEIFETS has been identified as a Soviet espionage agent and said that CHAPLIN was "doing a great work."

An informant advised on February 15, 1944, that Gregori KHEIFETS, previously identified, advised him that CHAPLIN had done much for the Party and on account of his efforts they were attempting to deport him at that time.

On April 18 and 21, 1947, an informant advised that CHAPLIN may or may not be a member of the Communist Party. However, he is extremely cooperative and to some extent controlled by the Party. The informant added that CHAPLIN will always go along with the Party and has helped it financially. He felt that CHAPLIN had financially aided the Communist West Coast paper, "The People's World."

In a statement made by Joan BERRY on January 7, 1944, in connection with CHAPLIN's violation of the White Slave Traffic Act, Miss BERRY alleges that CHAPLIN had informed her that he had been offered a position in Russia as a Commissar, and that he had told her that he had given some thought of going back to Russia.

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

# TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Precedence ROUTINE. Security Classification CONFIDENTIAL.  
From : SLO WASHINGTON. Office File No. .... Originator's No. WASH/68.  
To : ..... Date of Origin 4.10.52.  
Passed for D.B.  
Action to ..... Date of Receipt 6.10.52.  
Info ..... Copies to D.G. Decyphered by P.S.

Reference your telegram DS/6053 of 3rd October.

1. CHAPLIN has given funds to Communist Front Organisations.  
Understand U.S. Government cannot (R) NOT prove party membership.
2. He has been involved in paternity and abortion cases.  
Being an alien Immigration can exclude him for moral turpitude.  
However in view of his fame and forty years residence in U.S.A.  
Attorney General will certainly consider public sentiment before  
taking action.
3. For your personal information F.B.I. tell me that subject  
was friendly with Hans EISLER brother of Gerhard.



BI 12-915

cut for BIA/KMS

October 4, 1952

CHALLENGE

# OUR CHARLIE

BY OUR FILM CRITIC

SO Charlie Chaplin is back in his own country. We're all glad to see him. No one else in the cinema world has had such influence on so many millions of people during the last thirty-five years.

A Chaplin film today is a rare event. Next month his latest, "Limelight", which stars alongside Charlie himself, the young actress, Claire Bloom, will be presented in London.

It's safe to say now that it will make people smile—and also drop a tear.

What's Charlie's secret? Why is it that he goes to the hearts of his audiences?

His old films—still greeted hilariously whether shown at the kid's matinee or to the ordinary cinemagoer—with their clowning, air-raising adventures, and Charlie getting most of the kicks, played for laughs and not them.

believe that his later films are the ones which will keep his name shining in history.

How many readers have seen "The Gold Rush", "City Lights", "Modern Times", "The Great Dictator", and the post-war "Monsieur Verdoux"?

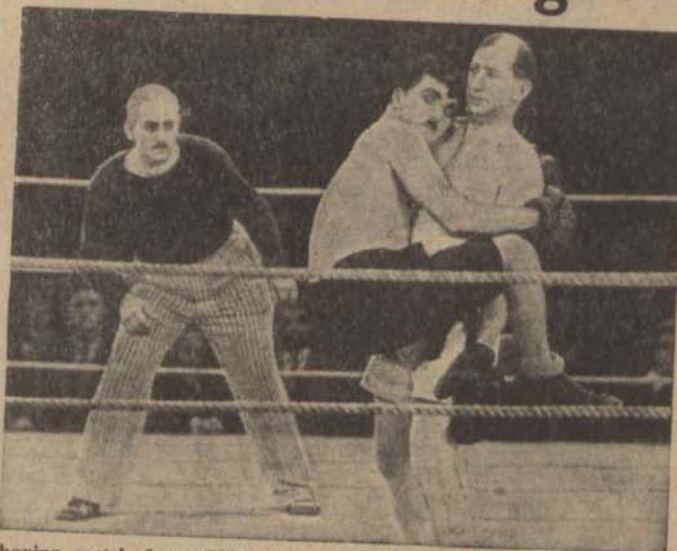
They all have more than laughs, more than drama, more than clever film technique. They comment wisely on the great human problems that exist in the world today.

How many readers saw "City Lights" last year when it was revived and shown all over the country? Quite a few, and I'll wager most of you had one of the best nights at the pictures for a long time.

Charlie being entertained, thrown out of the house, given a car, then thrown out again by his millionaire friend whose goodwill increases with his consumption of alcohol; the boxing match, the unveiling of the statue

(Continued top of column 4)

## Chaplin's films have more than laughs



The boxing match from "City Lights", a Charlie Chaplin film made twenty years ago which was recently revived in Britain



Charlie Chaplin and Martha Raye in a scene from the 1947 film "Monsieur Verdoux". Charlie was the man who murdered women as a profession. Martha was the girl who was so dumb that she couldn't even be disposed of. But the film had a serious message—an attack on large-scale organised murder: War and Capitalism

(with Charlie found asleep arms); I roared and I suppose did too.

But what else? The tragedy little man, who, to help people, does everything possible, seemingly impossible and in jail as a result, comes over with force.

This film was originally produced in 1932—at the height of the slumps in America and Britain, hundreds, thousands of little workers, were landing in jail for "crime" of fighting starvation need.

"Modern Times" exposed the pidity and frustration of the used by the big capitalists to profit from their workers.

"The Great Dictator" blew the Hitler myth and made the Nazism (at a time when Hitler Nazism were popular with powerful figures in America).



"Monsieur Verdoux" since the capitalist system which money out of the slaughter millions.

No wonder Charlie is hated "big" people in America. He stated that although he is not a communist, he is "for the under everywhere".

That is why the American Attorney General has been uttering threats about Charlie's re-entry into United States.

Never has there been a more public illustration of the falsity of American capitalism's claim that it stands for the "freedom of the individual".

Paul Robeson—loved for his sincere personality and beautiful voice by millions—is not allowed to leave the U.S. Chaplin—loved for his films and his humanity—is warned that he may not be allowed to re-enter.



But just as Paul Robeson will never leave the hearts of decent people everywhere, so will Charlie Chaplin always have free entry to the affections of the ordinary American and British citizen.

Let's be glad that this genius with the deep blue eyes is still a British citizen after thirty-five years in Hollywood.

So far as I am concerned, if Charlie was to decide to stay in Britain for the rest of his life and make films here (and the British cinema workers would shout for joy at that) it would serve the ungrateful Yankee high-ups right.

And I'm sure you



for file No.

No. 39

World News and Views

467

## CHARLIE CHAPLIN

by JOHN ALEXANDER

THE ARRIVAL of Charlie Chaplin after twenty-one years' absence has touched off something in the mood of the British people. The widespread demonstrations of affection, sympathy and solidarity have brought to the surface evidence of the deep and growing aspirations of our people for a true patriotism and an end to American domination. Analysis of the British press shows how general the impact has been.

Leonard Mosley commented:

"It was as if Charlie Chaplin . . . had crystallised all the latent anti-witch-hunt emotions which English folk feel when they read the news from America sometimes." (*Daily Express*, 24/9/52.)

Differentiation between British and American reporters started at the press conference in Cherbourg. Paul Holt wrote that Chaplin seemed nervous when he "faced a fierce horde of French, American and British newsmen" but:

"Then a queer thing happened. A London journalist began to clap and slowly we all joined in. . . Then his tensed, grim expression broke. He grinned and began to gesticulate." (*Daily Herald*, 23/9/52.)

Again, Alan Gardner quoted Chaplin's definition of his politics—in an anti-Hollywood way:

"I am an individualist and believe in liberty—that's all I believe in. I am not a super-patriot in any sense. I don't believe in super-patriotism. It leads to Hitlerism." *Hear, hear*, shouted the British reporters." (Author's italics) (*Daily Graphic*, 23/9/52.)

### Witch-Hunt Press

Chaplin himself accentuated this differentiation when, asked by a correspondent of the *New York Herald Tribune* to comment on "his present attitude towards Russia" (a question pointedly stated by many British correspondents to come from "an American journalist") he replied:

"I don't think it's the position of the *Herald Tribune* to take the side of the American Government."

This question was repeated by Coblenz who "pointed out to Mr. Chaplin that there was great interest in this question in the United States", commenting sourly that Chaplin "was lionised by the greater part of the British press and was receiving almost unqualified sympathy in his difficulties with the American Department of Justice". (*New York Herald Tribune*, 24.9.52.)

Even before Chaplin's arrival Don Iddon had referred to the reception accorded to the premiere of *Limelight* in New York:

"It's the custom here not to print reviews of pictures until after the formal premiere, but it's not the custom to give a great artist the brush-off. New York has given Chaplin that." (*Daily Mail*, 17/9/52.)

Many journalists actively pursued the question of the witch hunt, making points in relation to British politics. Thus Lionel Hale, writing ironically as "a Tory and a friend of America" welcomed the U.S. Attorney General's stand since it might force Chaplin, "one of the greatest artists of our era", to live and make films here. He added:

"Apart from the matter of human decency, it needn't worry us very much that the Attorney General of the United States has taken a course that will arouse universal fury by allowing Mr. Chaplin to leave the country and then assault him on the high seas." (*News Chronicle*, 22/9/52.)

And the *Manchester Guardian* was even more explicit on the clash between true creative genius and U.S. ruling

circles:

"Many newspaper readers . . . have been wondering what is the background to the United States Government's curious treatment of Chaplin. Has he some strange power which makes it necessary for the American Government to act furiously against him? . . . He has one form of power . . . in a community where money talks. Chaplin has made big money. He has another power, however, which frightens some Americans more than any amount of money. He has the power of an artist who has made his 'voice' (even when it was silent) heard all over the world, transcending all barriers until some were deliberately built against him in Italy and Germany during their Fascist periods. . . .

"It is questionable whether he always criticised American society in particular. . . . But American society, with some few exceptions, has never hesitated about finding that the cap fits and criticising back." (*Manchester Guardian*, 23/9/52.)

Chaplin himself, in his references to Britain, to his family, to life in general, revealed at every point the stand of a true patriot and internationalist, in contrast to other Hollywood visitors. His affection for people, the true roots of his art, was brought out in many of his replies. His evocations of life in South London where his culture originated were genuine and deeply felt:

"I was at Kennington Cross, late at night, sitting on the kerb. The incident is in my new film. For the first time I heard and appreciated music."

"I had danced to music as a child, but never did I hear it in terms of something. The tune was: *You are my honey, honey suckle*. It touched me emotionally. It was the most beautiful tune I ever heard in my life."

"A blind pianist and 'cellist played it, and it echoed out from an open pub door. Then they went up the Vauxhall Road to another pub. I followed, becoming one of the line of the Pied Piper."

"Then closing time came and they stopped, and there was a terrific sadness and I went home in tears. I was seven and now I'm 63, but I'll never forget it." (Interview with Bruce Bothwell, *News Chronicle*, 23/9/52.)

### His Aim in Films

Chaplin's definition of his films stands out as sharply opposed to the dominant trends in Hollywood and this country, the trends towards decadence and war:

"I make films to please people, create beauty and good feeling, kindness, generosity and tolerance." (*Daily Telegraph*, 23/9/52.)

The crowds which met him in London respect him for his links with the British past, with the vigorous culture he recalled so warmly when he asked "What has happened to all the music hall comics with their rousing choruses made to be sung with a pot of beer in the hand?" (*The Star*, 23.9.52.)

But, in linking him with British tradition, the people are aware how and by whom this tradition is mainly menaced. The *Daily Telegraph* took the side of the State Department in an editorial attempting to denigrate Chaplin who "has shown a quite marked lack of enthusiasm for throwing in his lot with his native land" and isolating art from life in a way rejected by the thousands who love Chaplin:

"The fact that he is a comedian of genius is of no relevance to the question of human rights." (*L'Affaire Chaplin*, *Daily Telegraph*, 23/9/52.)

Chaplin's sly wit, his buoyant confidence in dealing with the press reflects his optimism. What he says of himself is also true of the world peace movement:

"I have millions and millions of friends in America and a few enemies—that's all." (*Daily Mail*, 24/9/52.)

THE 26  
23/10/52



# TELEGRAM FOR DESPATCH

6a

Precedence: ~~SECRET~~

Security Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

To: SLO Washington Office File No. .... Section of Origin D.B.

Date 3.10.52

Signed

6/10

Rpt.: .....

Copy to D.B.

Inf.: .....

Reference your letter No. .... of  
our telegram

Statement by McGranery re CHAPLIN. We have very little information on which to guide any highly placed persons likely encounter CHAPLIN during his visit here. Can you help?

D. S. 6053 DATE 3.10.52	
RECORDED BY	
CHECKED BY	T/P.

The text of this telegram is **Unparaphrased**, and must not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters, or re-transmitted, even in cipher without being **Paraphrased**. Messages marked 'O.T.P.' need not be paraphrased.

OKC RB  
23 10 52

5a

# American law chief attacks Chaplin

WASHINGTON, Thursday.  
SPEAKING of Charlie Chaplin, U.S. Attorney-General James McGranery said today: "If what has been said about him is true he is, in my judgment, an unsavoury character."

Mr. McGranery called attention to his recent announcement that Mr. Chaplin, now in Europe would be subjected to close examination about his admissibility under the immigration laws whenever he attempted to re-enter America.

The famous comedian has kept his British nationality throughout nearly 40 years in America.

## 'SNEERING'

Mr. McGranery added: "It has been publicly charged that he was a member of the Communist Party and with grave moral charges, and with making statements that would indicate a leering, sneering attitude toward a country whose hospitality has enriched him."

Mr. Chaplin sailed for Britain with his wife and four children on September 17, and is now in London.

Mr. McGranery also announced a plan to strip American citizenship from about 100 naturalised aliens.

—Reuter

THC 186  
23 10 52



SECRET

324/A1/B4

ICR UKF120

2A 23SE52 1910 24SE52 DMS

XGW65 PEKING 71 23 1910

LT PERSONAL CHARLES CHAPLIN ODEON THEATRE LEICESTER SQUARE  
LONDON

SO SORRY MISS GREETING YOU ON YOUR ARRIVAL STOP HALL B BACK  
LATISH OCTOBER AND HOPE YOU WILL NOT HAVE LEFT EUROPE STOP  
DO RING HELL MEANWHILE SHE IS KINGS LANGLEY 2944 STOP WISH  
YOU EVERY HAPPINESS WE SHALL BOTH BE HOLDING OUR THUMBS IN  
DIFFERENT PARTS OF GLOBE ROOTING FOR NEW SUCCESS STOP ALWAYS  
THE BEST IVOR MONTAGU HOTEL PEKIN PEKIN AR

26 SEP 1952

TH CK6  
23/10/52

3a

*B7D* *cut for [unclear] [unclear]*

## Charlie's letters say 'stay here'

From LEON GRIFFITHS

**H**UNDREDS of letters are arriving at Charlie Chaplin's hotel in London imploring him not to go back to America.

Yesterday, while Charlie slept late, his secretary was sorting out the welcome-home letters, many of them urging the 63-year-old film genius to stay in Britain.

When Charlie ventures out into the street he is immediately surrounded by well-wishers. His secretary said that many of them say: "They don't want you in America Charlie. Stay over here."

Such is the sincerity of the welcome that Charlie, still completely overwhelmed by it, may decide to stay here after all.

When he walks through the streets alone wearing dark glasses,

---

### 'Persecution'—Congressman

At a meeting of Parliamentarians for World Government in London last night United States Congressman Adam C. Powell, referring to the present Chaplin controversy, declared: "The current persecution of Mr. Charles Chaplin by my Government shows the need for world citizenship."

On Wednesday he saw in the Tate Gallery a statue of Paul Robeson. Any American who exhibited a bust of Robeson today would be hauled before the Un-American Activities Committee, said Mr. Powell.

---

Charlie is genuinely seeking to avoid publicity.

For him the return to the city of his birth is really a sentimental journey.

It was 2.30 yesterday morning before Charlie and his 27-year old wife Oona got to bed after a party at Douglas Fairbanks' home in Kensington.

### At the Old Vic

Last night Charlie was back among his own folks, south of the river, and they gave him a real welcome.

He went to the Old Vic to see his leading lady from "Limelight," Miss Claire Bloom, in "Romeo and Juliet" and found himself near the Kennington street where he grew up.

About 250 people were waiting outside when Charlie's taxi drew up. Nearly half of them were children.

*OK R6*  
*23 10 52*



## Charlie

AT long last the U.S. Attorney-General thinks it politic to try to prevent Charles Chaplin from returning to the United States.

Charlie has lived in America for 30 years. But all this time he has refused to become an American citizen or embrace the American way of life.

In a land of war hysteria, witch-hunting, corruption and political persecution, his fearless voice has been raised for progressive causes. His films have lampooned the great and the dictators, raised up the common man against the rich.

Now the world's bully threatens the world's clown. If he returns to the land of the "free," he is to be seized in order that the Senator McCarthys can consider whether he is a fit and proper person to set foot in America again.

A fit subject for a brilliant Chaplin film, this—a court of germ generals, gangster politicians and Wall Street financiers sitting in judgment on the clown who has mocked them all with the world looking on.

But what more fitting comment on the great United States could there possibly be?

Of one thing we can all be certain, the entire civilised world will support the clown.

THC R6  
23 10 52

1a

# Tremendous welcome awaits Chaplin

Daily Worker Reporter

OUT of a storm of controversy and into one of the biggest welcomes ever afforded a film star sails Charlie Chaplin.

Tomorrow, he and his family are due to arrive at Southampton on board the Queen Elizabeth.

Yesterday, the New York Times answered the witch-hunters who are seeking to prevent Mr. Chaplin from re-entering the United States.

In an editorial, the paper said: "No political situation, no international menace, can destroy the fact that he is a great artist who has given infinite pleasure to many millions."

Without "far more evidence," said the paper, "the Department of State will not dignify itself or increase the nation's security if it sends him into exile."

## ELECTION STUNT?

There is a possibility that the whole affair is an election stunt, giving the administration the opportunity of deferring a decision until after the Presidential election, thus permitting a retreat as in the case of Maurice Chevalier.

His refusal to take out American citizenship and his association with progressive opinion have been the main targets of the American Press.

On his first visit to Britain for 21 years, Chaplin—one of the cinema's few great artists—is assured of a big reception.

Several leading British film producers would be willing to work with him should he be refused re-entry into America.

His new film, "Limelight," will have its premiere in London next month. It is being eagerly awaited in spite of the cold reception it received in New York.

The Chaplins and their four children are expected to stay in Britain for at least six months. They have taken an expensive suite overlooking the Thames at the Savoy Hotel.

THUR 28 10 52