ATTACHED (for interest only) is a reproduction of an article by subject giving a summary of certain details of the George Polk case.

The following items regarding the case may be of interest as indications of possible communist involvement on the part of the Polks, though they do not provide substantial evidence:

a) George Polk was considered by some in Greece to have communist leanings because of his critical attitude toward the Greek government, which was at that time engaged in civil war with communist guerrillas in the north. (The George Polk Case, Report of the Overseas Department of State, Summary of Proceedings of Polk Trial, April 1946, U.S. Govt. Printing Office.)

b) The opinion has been voiced repeatedly since the trial that much of the truth was hidden. A re-examination of the case by the Greek's trial counsel, Mrs. Vassilis Poliadis, pointed out that he considered the strange behavior of two women and suggested she knew more than she had told.

c) The Attorney General of Greece was of the belief that Mrs. Polk was responsible for the removal of certain miss files from George Polk's office in Athens. (State Memo dated 26 May 1946 of conversation between the Attorney General and Raleigh A. Gibson.)
(a) One of FOLK's associates in Greece was Donald Cook HATCHEN, a pro-Soviet CBS correspondent who left the country and went to Rome.

(b) Assistant SURDIN, a CBS correspondent who held the same critical views of the Greek government as FOLK (State Dispatch 757/19 April 1949 from Salonika), investigated the case after the murder and showed special interest in recovering FOLK's missing CBS files. (Department of State, Summary of Proceedings of FOLK Trial, July 14, 1949, no. 51, enclosure 2). In June 1955, SURDIN testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee that he had been an active Communist from 1937-1942 and that he had engaged in espionage activities. (Newsweek, July 13, 1955).

(c) An confidential informant of unknown reliability stated that FOLK had stated at Columbia University in the summer of 1948 that the royalists had killed her husband and she wanted to avenge his death. (Official, file no. 6347/77).

(d) FOLK tried to leave Greece in June 1948. (c) and (d) took steps to prevent her departure.

3. No information is available here on the recent activities of subject, nor is there any information which would shed light on the purpose of her present visit to Greece. We should be interested in any suspicious activity of her part which might come to your attention.

Attachment: See stated above.

25 August 1955

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