

The background is a dark gray technical drawing or blueprint. It features a grid of thin white lines, various circles, arcs, and straight lines. There are some handwritten-style numbers and labels, such as '22.24' and '26', and a small arrow pointing left. A large, hatched rectangular area is visible on the right side. The overall aesthetic is that of a vintage engineering or architectural plan.

[REDACTED]

**THE TESLA
FBI FILES**

THE TESLA FBI FILES

DISCOVERY PUBLISHER

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Author when not written otherwise : Nikola Tesla

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THE TESLA FBI FILES

INTRODUCTION

One of the more controversial topics involving Nikola Tesla is what became of many of his technical and scientific papers after he died in 1943. Just before his death at the height of World War II, he claimed that he had perfected his so-called “death beam.” So it was natural that the FBI and other U.S. Government agencies would be interested in any scientific ideas involving weaponry. Some were concerned that Tesla’s papers might fall into the hands of the Axis powers or the Soviets.

The morning after the inventor’s death, his nephew Sava Kosanovic hurried to his uncle’s room at the Hotel New Yorker. He was an up-and-coming Yugoslav official with suspected connections to the communist party in his country. By the time he arrived, Tesla’s body had already been removed, and Kosanovic suspected that someone had already gone through his uncle’s effects. Technical papers were missing as well as a black notebook he knew Tesla kept—a notebook with several hundred pages, some of which were marked “Government.”

P. E. Foxworth, assistant director of the New York FBI office, was called in to investigate. According to Foxworth, the government was “vitally interested” in preserving Tesla’s papers. Two days after Tesla’s death, representatives of the Office of Alien Property went to his room at the New Yorker Hotel and seized all his possessions.

Dr. John G. Trump, an electrical engineer with the National Defense Research Committee of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, was called in to analyze the Tesla papers in OAP custody. Following a three-day investigation, Dr. Trump concluded:

His [Tesla’s] thoughts and efforts during at least the past 15 years were primarily of a speculative, philosophical, and somewhat promotional character often concerned with the production and wireless transmission of power; but did not include new, sound, workable principles or methods for realizing such results.

Just after World War II, there was a renewed interest in beam weapons. Copies of Tesla’s papers on particle beam weaponry were sent to Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. An operation code-named “Project Nick” was heavily funded and placed under the command of Brigadier General L.C. Craigie to test the feasibility of Tesla’s concept. Details of the experiments were never published, and the project was apparently discontinued. But something peculiar happened. The copies of Tesla’s papers disappeared and nobody knows what happened to them.

In 1952, Tesla's remaining papers and possessions were released to Sava Kosanovic and returned to Belgrade, Yugoslavia where a museum was created in the inventor's honor. For many years, under Tito's communist regime, it was extremely difficult for Western journalists and scholars to gain access to the Tesla archive in Yugoslavia; even then they were allowed to see only selected papers. This was not the case for Soviet scientists who came in delegations during the 1950s. Concerns increased in 1960 when Soviet Premier Khrushchev announced to the Supreme Soviet that "a new and fantastic weapon was in the hatching stage."

Work on beam weapons also continued in the United States. In 1958 the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) initiated a top-secret project code-named "Seesaw" at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory to develop a charged-particle beam weapon. More than ten years and twenty-seven million dollars later, the project was abandoned "because of the projected high costs associated with implementation as well as the formidable technical problems associated with propagating a beam through very long ranges in the atmosphere." Scientists associated with the project had no knowledge of Tesla's papers.

In the late 1970s, there was fear that the Soviets may have achieved a technological breakthrough. Some U.S. defense analysts concluded that a large beam weapon facility was under construction near the Sino-Soviet border in Southern Russia.

The American response to this "technological surprise" was the Strategic Defense Initiative announced by President Ronald Reagan in 1983. Teams of government scientists were urged to "turn their great talents now to the cause of mankind and world peace, to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

Today, after a half-century of research and billions of dollars of investment, the SDI program is generally considered a failure, and there is still no realistic means of defense against a nuclear missile attack.

For many years scientists and researchers have sought for Tesla's missing papers with no apparent success. It is conceivable that if Nikola Tesla knew a means for accurately projecting lethal beams of energy through the atmosphere, he may have taken it to the grave with him.

The FBI claims that despite longstanding reports and rumors, it was not involved in searching Tesla's effects, and it never had possession of his papers or any microfilm that may have been made of those papers. Since 1943, the FBI has told a consistent story to all who have asked. Reports to the contrary appear to be based on an initial confusion of FBI agents with other government officials—especially Alien Property Office personnel. These rumors have long been repeated in biographies and articles on Tesla without double-checking the facts as reported in their files.

This book contains all files released by the FBI concerning Nikola Tesla.

2/12/1937

February 12, 1937

Mr. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I do not know whether or not the recent series of air crashes on the west coast has attracted the attention of your department, or whether, if investigation were indicated, the jurisdiction would be your own. An idea as to the cause of these crashes has occurred to me, however, and I thought it might bear a bit of checking up.

If you will check newspaper files as far back as 1934, I believe you will find that the earliest of the unexplained (and apparently unexplainable crashes) occurred about that time.

As I remember the events, it was during that year that three small planes exploded in the air over Texas and southwestern Kansas and Oklahoma. These crashes were not accounted for, either by subsequent investigation where the plane occupants were killed or by the experience of surviving plane occupants in one case.

Following these tragedies there came a lapse of about a year, after which there occurred (likewise without apparent reason) the series of crashes which cost the lives of a senator, of Knute Rockne, and a number of others. All crashes again occurred in the South and Southwest.

Again there was a lapse of time, this one not quite a year, and there started the worst series of air disasters the country has yet seen. One plane lost in the Southwest and not yet accounted for. One plane crashes into a mountainside within sight of its airport. And now the most recent incident, the falling of a United liner into San Francisco Bay while circling its airport, preparatory to landing.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-47649-1
Now in this most recent incident, the experience of the radio operator at the airport seems to me to be highly illuminating. This operator reported a soft buzz interrupting his communication with the liner ... a loud roar such as produced by the worst imaginable static ... then silence. The plane had dropped into the bay like a plummet.

Crack pilots do not suddenly become rank hams and bungle in handling a ship. Nor do the three motors (or even two) on the large airliners, stop simultaneously without extremely sufficient reason. These things might happen once or even twice in a lifetime. They do not happen six and eight times a year. It is not logical that they should.

To digress for a moment, I recall reading an article in a magazine a year or two ago, written by Nikola Tesla, the inventor. The article dealt with a new invention of Mr. Tesla's ... a giant induction coil which would project power (high voltage) through the atmosphere without the use of transmission wires. Mr. Tesla devoted some space to the possible social benefits that would result to the public should his invention be perfected and become practical.

I have not heard of Mr. Tesla now in two or three years. Perhaps he has left the country. Perhaps he is still here. He might still be working on the invention described in the above-mentioned article. It might have been stolen from him.

In any case, his views on the ideas presented by these two unconnected subjects, would be well worth while having. And if I had the money and the time, I should certainly make an effort to smoke him out myself.

The thing is simply this: if one man can make an instrument that will project power through the air for even so short a distance as 500 yards (the then-practical limitations of Mr. Nikola's device) it is entirely possible for another to project power for several hundreds of miles. And the effect of such uncontrolled power on metallic objects in its path is entirely unpredictable.

Please do not think me a "crank" letter writer. I have never before written a letter of this type to anyone. But the idea seems to me so within the bounds of possibility that I most sincerely feel it will bear some practical study.

Yours very respectfully,

Passaic, N.J.

b7C

Letter Ack. & Ref.
Per Air Commerce

cc - [redacted]
2-27-37 JmH

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☒ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

☐ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (b)(7)(D)

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☐ (b)(8)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(9)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

_____ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages.

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X No Duplication Fee X
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1/11/1943

J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

JEL:ed

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

January 11, 1943

13818

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH
OF NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
ESPIONAGE - R

Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

In a teletype from the New York Office dated January 9, 1943, the Bureau's advice is requested as to what action should be taken in connection with this matter. It is to be noted that Tesla died January 7, 1943, and resided at the Hotel New Yorker. He was one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field and has been conducting many experiments in connection with wireless transmission of electrical power and what is commonly referred to as the "Death Ray".

Sgt. Kusanovich, a distant relative intensely disliked by Tesla, is taking steps to get possession of these important documents and plans. Kusanovich on January 7, 1943, with George Clark, in charge of the Museum and Laboratory for RCA, and Kenneth Swezey of Brooklyn, New York, entered Tesla's rooms in the Hotel New Yorker and, with the aid of a locksmith, broke into a safe containing some of Tesla's valuable papers, including important electrical formulae, designs, et cetera.

Tesla is reported to have completed and perfected his experiments in the radio transmission of electrical power and to have conceived and designed a revolutionary type of torpedo not presently in use by any nation. It is reported that Kusanovich may possibly make this material available to the enemy.

ACTION:

I called Mr. Donegan of the New York Office at 12:30 P.M. and pointed out the apparent burglary violation on the part of Kusanovich. I told him this matter should be discreetly discussed with the State's Attorney in New York City with a view to locating Kusanovich and apprehending him on a burglary charge in order to determine the nature of the material he took from Tesla's safe. I pointed out the necessity for the State's Attorney keeping any action most secret in view of the highly confidential nature of the plans involved. I also suggested that the New York Office contact the Surrogate Court in order that Tesla's effects as well as the contents of his safety deposit boxes might not be entered without the presence of a Bureau Agent in order that we may endeavor to preserve the secrecy of any plans or items essential to the conduct of the war and national security.



to NY 1-21-43
J. L. J.

RECORDED
INDEXED
JAN 14 1943

65-41953-1
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JAN 12 1943

[Redacted]

b7C

1/21/1943

LETTER TO FBI-EXPERIEMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA

65-47953-1

12216

FSP:AB

January 21, 1943

SAC, New York

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; SAVA KOSANOVICH;
EXPERIEMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
ESPIONAGE (M)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a teletype dated January 9, 1943, from the New York Field Office and to a phone conversation between Mr. J. B. Little of the Bureau and Assistant Special Agent in Charge Donegan on January 11, 1943. 0/5

It was pointed out to Mr. Donegan that Sava Kosanovich, George Clark and Kenneth Swesey may have committed a burglary violation by entering Tesla's rooms after his death and particularly by using a locksmith to get into a safe containing some of Tesla's valuable papers. Mr. Donegan was advised this matter should be discreetly discussed with the State's Attorney, New York City, with a view to locating Kosanovich and apprehending him on a burglary charge, in order to ascertain the nature of the material taken from the safe of Nikola Tesla. It was also suggested that the New York Office contact the Surrogate Court, in order that Tesla's effects, as well as the contents of his safety deposit boxes, might not be entered without the presence of an Agent, in order that the secrecy of any plans or items essential to the conduct of the war or national security might be preserved. It was stated that Kosanovich might possibly make certain material available to the enemy.

A review of the Bureau files reveals considerable information concerning Nikola Tesla and his inventions and it should be noted that one Nicola Tesla, who might have been identical with Nikola Tesla, made a speech at the Grange Hall, Springfield, Massachusetts, on June 4, 1922, under the auspices of the Friends of Soviet Russia.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ It further appears that Sava Kosanovich may be identical with an individual of the same name, who is a member of the Yugoslavian Government.
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____ An examination of the files reveals that Sava Kosanovich, described as the Minister of Supply, arrived with other Yugoslavian Government officials at Norfolk, Virginia, on September 4, 1941, on the SS City of
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gandy _____

COPIES DESTROYED

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SAC, New York

- 2 -

Greece, Poland, Yugoslavia). On this letterhead Kosanovich is described as Chairman of the Board and Minister of State for Yugoslavia. It is stated that this Board is interested in "planning for postwar Europe". (100-99042)

In still another file it is disclosed that Sava Kosanovich, a Serbian, was a member of one of the Yugoslavian minority parties and when an emergency government to overthrow an alliance with the Axis was formed, he was included as an official. He is alleged to be a Communist and is said to receive \$1,250 a month salary from the exiled Yugoslavian Government. He and other exiled government officials are stated to use these large salaries to finance every Serbian paper in the United States except "Srbobran" published at Pittsburgh. (97-1340-18)

No record of Kenneth Sweeney could be located in the Bureau files from the information available.

The foregoing information is being furnished for possible future reference in connection with this case and it is desired that the Bureau be kept promptly and currently informed of all developments in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Freedom of Information Release

On

Subject: Nikola Tesla

Cross References

Pages Reviewed - 127

Pages Released - 127



Federal Bureau of Investigation

3/19/1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

EBC:PM
65-12290

March 19, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; SAVA ⁶KOSANOVICH;
EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA
(Deceased);
ESPIONAGE, MISCELLANEOUS

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letter in the above-captioned matter dated January 21, 1943, in which it is stated that it is desired that the Bureau be kept promptly and currently informed of all developments in this case.

In view of a telephone call from Mr. Little of the Bureau to Mr. T. J. Donegan, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the New York Office, dated January 14, 1943, in which Mr. Little stated that the above-captioned matter was now being handled as an Alien Enemy Custodial Detention matter and therefore no further action should be taken in the matter by the New York Field Division, this case is being considered closed in this Office, unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau at some future time.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY

Special Agent in Charge

*alien En
custodian*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 4-18-89 BY SP1A/SCM
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3/29/1943

FBI-SAVA M. KOSANOVICH

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

FILE NO. 100-8189

REPORT MADE AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND	DATE WHEN MADE 3-29-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-6-43	REPORT MADE BY CHARLES J. FOSTER :MHR
TITLE SAVA M. KOSANOVICH, with alias Sava M. Cosonovitch			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY G. CUSTODIAL DETENTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject SAVA M. KOSANOVICH, Secretary of State to Yugoslavian Government in exile. Resides Navaro Hotel, NYC. Reported to have turned over patents and effects to Alien Property Custodian, NYC, for NICK TESLA. ABE SPANEL advised subject for United Nations and desires to become U.S. citizen.

- R U C -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-28-85 BY SPANEL
29866

REFERENCE:

Letter from New York Field Division dated 2-22-43.

DETAILS:

AT DOVER, DELAWARE

It is to be noted that subject's correct name is SAVA M. KOSANOVICH and not COSONOVITCH as carried in reference letter.

Mr. ABE SPANEL, President of the International Latex Corporation, advised that the subject is presently the Secretary of State to the Yugoslavian Government in exile and that he resides at the Navaro Hotel, New York City. He stated that he had been a very good friend of NICK TESLA who has died recently and that he believes that the subject is a third or fourth cousin of TESLA and that when TESLA died, the subject was his only close relative in this country and TESLA's effects came into his possession.

SPANEL related that the subject had recently turned over to the government the majority of the patents of NICK TESLA. SPANEL described TESLA as being one of the greatest inventors that has ever lived. He stated he had more than

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	SF
COPIES DESTROYED 148 OCT 26 1964 5 - Bureau 4 - NYC (2 G-2) 2 - Baltimore		65-47753-41 17 APR 3	RECORDED
53 APR 22 1943			

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-2034

900 inventions and patents. SPANEL stated that at one time TESLA had an invention in which he was able to direct electrical current without the means of a conductor. He felt that this type of an invention would be of invaluable assistance to any country at war and for this reason felt that TESLA's inventions and patents should be put into the hands of proper Government officials, where they might be put to the best advantage for the United States. He does not believe the subject is engaged in any un-American activities and stated that he was more than willing to turn these patents and inventions over to the proper Government agency. He asserted that before TESLA died, he had spoken to the subject regarding his becoming a United States citizen and SPANEL believes that he is now taking the proper steps to achieve that end.

SPANEL also stated that the subject had handed all of the effects of the deceased TESLA to the Alien Property Custodian in New York City.

SPANEL advised that the day before TESLA died he had tried to get in touch with War Department officials in Washington in order that he might make available to them patents and inventions that he had developed. However, he was not able to get in touch with the proper authorities and he died the following day.

SPANEL advised that the Yugoslavian Government had been sending TESLA approximately \$600.00 per month for sometime prior to his death and this was described as being a sort of pension.

SPANEL stated further that he has previously turned over information regarding the subject to Special Agent FRED B. CORNELL of the New York Field Division. He also advised that WALDEMER KEMPFERT, Science Editor, New York Times and BILL LAURENZ, Science Feature Writer, New York Times and the Science Editor of the Herald Tribune would be able to elaborate on some of the accomplishments of NICK TESLA and that the June 1900 issue of the Century Magazine also contained an article relating to the inventions of TESLA.

SPANEL also stated that he believed BLOYCE FITZGERALD, Pierpont Hotel, Brooklyn, New York, Secretary to TESLA, has been contacted by Special Agent CORNELL and that if the New York Office wishes to contact SPANEL he may be reached at his home [REDACTED]

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -



FLH:lem
2:45 p.m.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

July 17, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: SAVA KOSANOVICH
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)
CUSTODIAL DETENTION

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

b7C
b7D
At this time SA John Parker of the New York office telephoned, stating on the previous afternoon [redacted] telephoned that office through the assistance of [redacted] known lecturer, author and traveler. [redacted] stated that she would like to be interviewed concerning certain information she possessed relative to Yugoslavian activities and, in particular, data which she has concerning [redacted] by the name of Kosanovich, whom she believes to be an enemy agent. [redacted] stated she was preparing statements of fact which she intends to turn over to the State Department concerning Kosanovich. She advised she was proceeding to her home [redacted] and can be reached at her address, which is [redacted]

Agent Parker stated [redacted] is presently referring to Sava Kosanovich and added this individual is mentioned in two teletypes which the New York office forwarded to the Bureau under dates of January 9 and 12, 1943, in the case entitled UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, EQUIPMENT, EXPLOSIVES AND MACHINERY OF NICOLA TESLA, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK (Bureau file 100-2237). Briefly, the information contained in these teletypes is that shortly after Nicola Tesla, one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field, died in his hotel room at New York City on January 8, 1943, Sava Kosanovich, a distant relative, and other individuals entered his room and opened a safe, examining certain materials which he possessed. On January 8, Mr. L. M. C. Smith of the Department advised Mr. Tamm that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla and that apparently the Alien Property Custodian was taking some action in this matter. Inasmuch as the matter was being handled by the Alien Property Custodian's office, the Bureau did not conduct any inquiries into this situation.

b7C
It is also noted that on July 17, Mr. James Sharpe of the Special Law Police Unit of the Department for [redacted] a letter reportedly dated 29 JUL 28 1943 [redacted] who was described as the Minister of the Yugoslav Government in exile by one [redacted]

This letter, which Sharpe understood [redacted] April 7, 1943, was of a threatening nature.



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57 AUG 29 1943

Mr. Ladd

- 2 -

A newspaper article which Mr. Sharpe also exhibited revealed that [REDACTED] was arraigned in local court in New York City on [REDACTED] after having been charged with sending a threatening letter through the mail to Kusanovich. In connection with this trial, Agent Parker stated that the case has been postponed for six months. In the letter which [REDACTED] wrote Kusanovich, he makes reference to [REDACTED] and instructs that Kusanovich discontinue his attacks on her.

At the time Mr. Sharpe called at the Bureau, he pointed out the strong animosity and dissension which exists between the various nationalist groups in this country because of their conflicting opinions as to the type of postwar government which should be set up in the smaller countries in Europe and mentioned that Kusanovich and [REDACTED] have opposite political theories. He also mentioned that [REDACTED] is one of the greatest contributors to dissension between the Germans in this country and has been active in publicizing her views concerning postwar Germany.

b7C Recently the Bureau instructed the Pittsburgh office to interview [REDACTED] concerning certain statements which she has been making relative to the Bureau and to date, this interview has not been consummated.

ACTION:

Inasmuch as [REDACTED] has indicated to the New York office that she desires information she desired to have available and that she believes Kusanovich to be a spy agent, it is believed that an interview with her should be had. It is felt that this interview should be carried out as soon as possible by the well-qualified Agents of the Washington Field Office, because of her prominence and political views.

There is attached for your approval a letter directed to the Washington Field Office requesting that this interview be conducted and also instructing that she be interrogated concerning the other matter referred to above, inasmuch as the Pittsburgh office has not as yet covered this interview.

Respectfully,

J. L. Wilson
J. L. Wilson

10/17/1945

FBI-ESPIONAGE



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York 7, New York



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. 65-12290
HFR:uhm

258616
262119
5-14-86

CONFIDENTIAL

October 17, 1945

Director, FBI

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; # 291660
SAVAKOSANOVICH;
Experiments and research of NIKOLA TESLA (deceased)
ESPIONAGE - M

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letter dated January 21, 1943, which bore a caption similar to that mentioned above.

The referenced letter dealt with the death, on January 7, 1943, of the famous inventor, NIKOLA TESLA, who as well as being the inventor of Alternating Current, perfected many electrical devices. He is also credited with having developed the so called "death ray" which would safeguard any country from attack by air.

On June 9, 1945, a [redacted] of New York City furnished information of a nonspecific nature indicating that it was his belief that persons sympathetic to Russia were making an effort to secure the effects of NIKOLA TESLA in order to salvage therefrom any models or designs of possible military value. [redacted] claimed that he heard that ABRAHAM N. SPANZ, President of the NATIONAL LATHE CORPORATION, of Dover, Delaware was the motivating influence behind this attempt to obtain TESLA'S papers which are presently held in storage at the MANHATTAN STORAGE WAREHOUSE in New York City. [redacted] promised to return to the New York Field Division shortly after his initial visit and furnish further and more specific information to support his claims.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

He was not heard from again, however, until September 27, 1945, at which time he furnished the following additional information:

He said that a boyhood chum of his from Wichita, Kansas, BLOYCE FITZGERALD, had been TESLA'S protege and one of the inventor's few confidants. According to [redacted] FITZGERALD who is now an Army Private stationed at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, is a brilliant 29 year old scientist who spent endless hours with TESLA prior to the latter's death, during which time TESLA explained to him most secret experiments. [redacted] stated that FITZGERALD met TESLA in November 1942, but he had been corresponding with the latter since 1936. According to the informant, FITZGERALD had developed some sort of anti-tank gun, the details of which he presented to TESLA who made certain corrections in design and specifications to further perfect the weapon.

[redacted] related that sometime in December 1942, when FITZGERALD was attending a meeting of the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, he made the acquaintance of ABRAHAM SPANZ who became interested in FITZGERALD'S

RETURN TO
INDEXING DESK

Letter, DIRECTOR, P
NY 65-12290

October 17, 1945

gun. SPANEL offered financial aid to FITZGERALD and the two were in the closest contact with each other for a considerable period of time. [REDACTED] said that FITZGERALD had lined up a deal for the purchase of the gun by the REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, but for some reason SPANEL blocked this deal by reaching top men in the REMINGTON COMPANY. SPANEL is then reported as having obtained a job for FITZGERALD with the HIGGINS SHIP BUILDING COMPANY in New Orleans and negotiated a contract with FITZGERALD for the purchase and manufacture of the gun in a manner which would return 60% of the profits derived to SPANEL.

[REDACTED] stated that in November of 1943, for some unknown reason but which he believes to be attributable to SPANEL, FITZGERALD was fired by the HIGGINS COMPANY. In September of 1944, FITZGERALD was inducted into the Army and for a considerable period of time was located at an ordnance experimental station at Elgin Field, Florida. [REDACTED] stated that at the present time FITZGERALD is engaged in a highly secret experimental project at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. In spite of his rank of Private, FITZGERALD actually is the director of this research and is working with many top young scientists who were inducted into Army from leading industrial posts. o/s

According to [REDACTED] FITZGERALD is presently working on the perfection of TESLA'S "death ray" which in FITZGERALD'S opinion is the only possible defense against offensive use by another nation of the Atomic Bomb. In this connection, it is noted that the New York Times of September 22, 1944, in an article entitled "SCIENCE IN THE NEWS" by WILLIAM A. LAURENCE, Science Editor states that TESLA divulged to LAURENCE the fact that he had developed a "death ray" or "tele-force" which TESLA claimed would melt airplane motors at a distance of 250 miles, so that actually an invisible Chinese Wall would be built around a country against attack by an enemy air force. b7C

According to the article in the TIMES, this electrical device would operate by the generation of power from a plant, a number of which might be located strategically along our coast lines and the beam from which would melt any engine within a radius of 250 miles.

[REDACTED] stated that during FITZGERALD'S acquaintance with SPANEL, FITZGERALD had told SPANEL of his associations with TESLA and had apparently described to SPANEL some of TESLA'S most secret work. [REDACTED] believes that SPANEL, who he claims is definitely pro-Russian in attitude, is now attempting through legal procedure to secure custody of TESLA'S effects which are now held by TESLA'S only heir, one SAVA KOSANOVICH, who is presently in Yugoslavia occupying some governmental post.

It will be recalled that in an article published on March 15, 1945, by the KING FEATURE SYNDICATE INCORPORATED, WESTBROOK FEGLER charged SPANEL with spreading pro-communist and pro-Russian propaganda through his full page advertisement in the newspapers, which SPANEL characterized as being published for the INTERNATIONAL LATEX CORPORATION, as a public service feature. It is also interesting to observe that in the New York Times of October 2, 1945, an article appears which states that SPANEL is suing the KING FEATURE SYNDICATE INCORPORATED for six million dollars alleging the column by FEGLER to have been libelous. o/s

Oct-ol 17, 1945

[redacted] stated that through FITZGERALD he too had met SPANEL and from this personal acquaintance he formed the opinion that SPANEL was definitely a communist and is probably one of the financial supporters of the Communist Party in this country. [redacted] stated that SPANEL was born in Russia, but is now an American citizen. He also charged that SPANEL exerted tremendous political influence in Washington, D. C., and said that one of SPANEL'S closest political friends was HENRY WALLACE. 7
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[redacted] advised that two agents from Army Intelligence contacted and stated that in an investigation to determine the qualifications of FITZGERALD for a commission, they had developed information indicating that SPANEL was definitely endeavoring to secure possession of TESLA'S effects. [redacted] indicated that Army Intelligence was pursuing an investigation along these lines in an attempt to ascertain the complete story in this regard.

For the Bureau's information, [redacted] was born on [redacted] at [redacted] is [redacted] and family resides in [redacted]. He is a graduate of [redacted] and [redacted] had been [redacted] and was in charge of [redacted] of the [redacted] b7C

[redacted] at present is [redacted] however, he appears to have ample funds since he travels all over the country and resides in reputable hotels. Just recently he stated that he had [redacted] from Washington to the West Coast as [redacted]. He advised that it is his desire to cooperate with FITZGERALD in securing legal possession of TESLA'S effects in order that a memorial foundation may be established for the protection of TESLA'S experiments and for the preservation of the inventor's memory. %

[redacted] stated that FITZGERALD had interested a group of young Army scientists now working with him at Wright Field in this foundation, and their ultimate goal is to secure the support of a wealthy backer in order that a foundation might be established and that a sort of "idea factory" might result. He said that they intended to contact HENRY FORD, SR., to solicit his aid in this regard. %

[redacted] related that probably the greatest idea of TESLA'S was that involving the wireless transmission of electrical power. He claimed that TESLA had performed a successful experiment many years ago at Pikes Peak, at which time he harnessed local current from the sun's rays which he built up into a huge potential of electrical energy. [redacted] said that according to FITZGERALD, if this idea could be furthered, all electrical energy to operate the world's machinery might be gotten absolutely free rather than by the costly method with which electrical power is presently generated. He said that his idea was to conduct further experiments along this line in China where the need for electrical power is very great.

Inquiry was made at the MANHATTAN STORAGE WAREHOUSE in New York City, and it was determined that the effects of NIKOLA TESLA are contained in some

Letter, Director, v v
65-12290

October 17, 1945

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75 packing cases and trunks and are presently under seal by the New York State Department of Taxation. It was learned that the rental for this storage, which approximates \$15 per month, is being paid by one CHARLOTTE MUZAR, 134 East 63rd Street, New York, New York, who is listed as the agent for SAVA KOSANOVICH.

Inquiry was also made at the office of the Alien Property Custodian in New York City, concerning an investigation conducted by this office at the time of TESLA'S death, and at which time the latter's property was placed under seal by the United States Government. Mr. WALTER GORSUCH, Chief Investigator for the Alien Property Custodian, provided a cover letter and a summary of materials owned by TESLA at the time of his death which was examined by JOHN G. TRUMP, of the office of SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT. Mr. GORSUCH also stated that his file in this matter reflected that on the night TESLA died his safe was forced open by a representative of the SHORE & WALKER SAFE COMPANY. It was Mr. GORSUCH'S belief that a Mr. SWEZEY who is believed to be one of the editors of the POPULAR SCIENCE MAGAZINE was present in TESLA'S room shortly after the safe was opened. These individuals were WILLIS GEORGE, EDWARD PALMER, and JOHN J. CORBETT.

There are enclosed herewith two typewritten copies of the report by Mr. TRUMP of the ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN reflecting the findings of Mr. TRUMP, following his examination of TESLA'S effects. There is also enclosed herewith a photostatic copy of a list of persons associated with NIKOLA TESLA. This latter item was furnished by [REDACTED] b7C

The above information is furnished for the Bureau's information, and no investigation is being conducted by this office.

Very truly yours,


E. E. CONROY, SAC

3 Enclosures

000004

1/30/1943

LETTER TO ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

13810

Address writer at:

Mass. Inst. of Tech.,
Cambridge, Mass.
January 30, 1943.

Mr. Walter Gorsuch,
Alien Property Custodian,
120 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

At your request and that of Mr. Joseph T. King of the Washington office of the Alien Property Custodian, I have examined the private papers, writings, and other property of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla with the view to determining both their possible usefulness to this country in its war effort and the possible hazard attendant on their falling into unfriendly hands.

This examination was made at the Manhattan Warehouse, 52nd Street, New York City, on January 26-27, and included all of the notes and material in Dr. Tesla's immediate possession at the time of his death and now in the custody of your office. For reasons indicated below, no investigation was made of material in trunks which had remained untouched in the basement of the New Yorker Hotel for ten years prior to Dr. Tesla's death.

As a result of this examination, it is my considered opinion that there exist among Dr. Tesla's papers and possessions no scientific notes, descriptions of hitherto unrevealed methods or devices, or actual apparatus which could be of significant value to this country or which would constitute a hazard in unfriendly hands. I can therefore see no technical or military reason why further custody of the property should be retained.

For your records, there has been removed to your office a file of various written material by Dr. Tesla which covers typically and fairly completely the ideas with which he was concerned during his later years. These documents are enumerated and briefly abstracted in the attachment to this letter.

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January 30, 1943.

It should be no discredit to this distinguished engineer and scientist whose solid contributions to the electrical art were made at the beginning of the present century to report that his thoughts and efforts during at least the past fifteen years were primarily of a speculative, philosophical, and somewhat promotional character—often concerned with the production and wireless transmission of power—but did not include new sound, workable principles or methods for realizing such results.

Very truly yours,

JOHN G. TRUMP,
Technical Aide,
Division 14, NIRC.

Enclosure.

JGT/G

000006



Thank you for reading this book
preview. We sincerely hope you
have enjoyed it. More at:

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THE TESLA FBI FILES

One of the more controversial topics involving Nikola Tesla is what became of many of his technical and scientific papers after he died in 1943. Just before his death at the height of World War II, he claimed that he had perfected his so-called “death beam.” So it was natural that the FBI and other U.S. Government agencies would be interested in any scientific ideas involving weaponry. Some were concerned that Tesla’s papers might fall into the hands of the Axis powers or the Soviets.

For many years scientists and researchers have sought for Tesla’s missing papers with no apparent success. It is conceivable that if Nikola Tesla knew a means for accurately projecting lethal beams of energy through the atmosphere, he may have taken it to the grave with him.

The FBI claims that despite longstanding reports and rumors, it was not involved in searching Tesla’s effects, and it never had possession of his papers or any microfilm that may have been made of those papers. Since 1943, the FBI has told a consistent story to all who have asked. Reports to the contrary appear to be based on an initial confusion of FBI agents with other government officials—especially Alien Property Office personnel. These rumors have long been repeated in biographies and articles on Tesla without double-checking the facts as reported in their files.

The Tesla FBI Files contains all files released to this day by the FBI concerning Nikola Tesla.

