

Instruction of Spec. Agt. in Charge L. W. J. Brennan

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE:	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY:
NEW YORK, N.Y.	10/31/21	10/28/21	L. J. DAVIS
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE			
RE: CYRIL BRIGGS African Blood Brotherhood Negro Activities.			
FACTS DEVELOPED:			
<p>Referring to the director's letter mentioned below, advising that the above-named individual does his banking at the Chelsea Bank, 125th Street and 7th Avenue, I interviewed Mr. RAPP, the manager of that bank.</p> <p>He advised that Briggs does not carry a personal account there but there is a small balance under the name of the <u>ORVILLE MACHLINS</u>. This account has been there for a long time and is characterized by Mr. Rapp as a "rotten account," in that it never exceeds \$75.00 or \$100.00 at any time. Mr. Rapp informed me that there has never been a deposit in this account of any sum or sums which would indicate that the magazine or persons connected with it were receiving undue financial support from any source.</p> <p><u>Briggs is not known to the officials at the</u> bank.</p>			

CJS-77D.

October 19, 1923.

E. P. Bohner, Esq.,
Room 913, Warley Wright Building,
1800 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

IN RE: AMERICAN BLOOD PROLETARIAT-Negro
Radical Activities- Cyril W. Briggs.

Dear sir:

Information was received late today to the effect that the above named individual left for Washington early this morning, via the Pennsylvania Railroad. His purpose in visiting that city is unknown at the present time, although it is quite possible he is in Washington in the interests of his organization.

Briggs is described as being about 42 years of age, 5' 7 or 8", 140 pounds, slender, clean shaven, brown hair, very light complexion for a Negro, very nervous, and his stammering is quite noticeable, is fast walker and usually carries hat in his hand.

For the benefit of the field office at Washington, Briggs is considered to be one of the most active members of his race in radical movements in this district, and while he has been opposed to the organization headed by Marcus Garvey, nevertheless he is a believer in the communist doctrines.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD J. BRENNAN
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE.

Instructions received from Agent in Charge E. R. Bohmer
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT New York City.

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY:
WASHINGTON D. C.	10/26/23	10/22-26/23	John T. Flournoy
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE			
RE: CYRIL V. BRIGGS - AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD - (All. Negro Radical Activities)			
FACTS DEVELOPED			File No. 6700
Washington, D. C.			
<u>ATTENTION MR. HOOVER - 2.</u>			
<p>Reference is made to letter from Special Agent in Charge Brennan of New York, dated 10/19/23 in which information is furnished that Subject, CYRIL V. BRIGGS, intended to visit Washington, D. C.</p> <p>Agent has made inquiries, through under-cover negro informant at the negro societies in Washington, D. C. as well as the publishers of the negro newspapers in this City, and it is not found that Subject made a visit to this City. Subject is known to this office as being active as a promotor of the African Blood Brotherhood. Agent's information, however, is that this organization has never gained a foothold in the City of Washington. Certainly there never has been an established branch here, although there may have been a few scattered members belonging to out of town branches. CYRIL V. BRIGGS is also known to this office as the former publisher of the Radical Negro publication known as the "Crusader". This magazine, for a time, had considerable circulation here, but Agent is advised that it is out of print at the present time. Agent concludes that neither Subject, nor any of his connections are conducting Radical Activities in the City of Washington at the present time.</p>			

Instructions received from Agent in Charge Edw. R. Bohner.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Washington, D. C.

JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ONLY

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
Washington, D. C.	11/7/23	11/6/23	A. L. Brent.
TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE			
RE: CYRIL V. BRIGGS.		NEGRO RADICAL MATTER.	

FACTS DEVELOPED

Washington, D. C.

#6700

Attention Mr. Hoover.

Reference is made to Memo dated 11/3/23 initialed HN:

Agent interviewed Mr. Archibald Grimke, #1415 Corcoran Street, N. W., President of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., and also the Rev. F. J. Grimke, of the same address in an effort to get some data on subject. Both of these gentlemen, however, stated positively that they do not know Subject; have never read his magazine Crusader, (now discontinued) and neither had ever heard of the organization known as the AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD, or the UNITED FRONT CONFERENCE.

Agent then interviewed Shelby J. Davidson, #1635 R St., N. W. Secretary of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., who stated that Subject was in the city but that he did not see him, but had talked with a man whom subject had entrusted with the work of organizing a local branch of the AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD. Mr. Davidson promised to locate this man and arrange for an interview with Agent who will pose as prospective member of organization.

Agent interviewed offices of the Washington Tribune and the Eagle and both of these offices denied emphatically that subject had visited there during his stay in the city.

Agent then interviewed Prof. Kelly Miller, at Howard University who stated that subject had been in the city about ten days or two weeks ago, and had called upon him at the University. He stated that visit was purely friendly and that nothing was spoken concerning the organizations mentioned in this report. He stated, however, that the AMERICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD has organized in New York, under supervision of subject, and is located at #2299-7th Avenue.

It is the opinion of Prof. Kelly Miller that the Name "Crusader News Service" is only the name of Subject's place of business where he handles publications other than the one he published himself recently, probably the word "Crusader" is used to attract his former patrons.

Agent was unable to get any information concerning the United front Conference, but it is the opinion of well informed persons that it is simply a conference of the leaders of various organizations to formulate plans for increasing membership and financial resources. It appears at present to have not progressed beyond the embryo stage.

Awaiting instructions.

instructions of Agent in Charge Johannes.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Minneapolis, Minnesota. JOURNAL TO BE MADE AT ORIGINATING OFFICE ON

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
Minneapolis, Minn.	11/17/23	11/25/23	Fred W. Briggs.

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

CYRIL BRIGGS - - - - - ORGANIZER FOR THE AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD-COMMUNIST.

FACTS DEVELOPED

at Duluth, Minn. Superior, Wis.:

On November 1st, 1923, Agent in Charge Johannes received the following letter from Agent in Charge Lewis Sawyer of the Milwaukee Office:

"W. J. Johannes, Esq.,
306 Federal Bldg.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:-

The following letter was this date received from the Director, initialed EW-JL, Oct. 29, 1923:

"Information has been received to the effect that Cyril Briggs of New York City, organizer for the African Blood Brotherhood addresses the Co-operative Central Exchange, of Superior, Wis. as one of the "Wholesale co-operatives" connected with the African Blood Brotherhood. As you know, the latter is an extremely radical organization operating in New York circles. The above is for your information."

You will note that in the above letter the Director does not give the date of this address.

As Superior is in your district it was undoubtedly meant for your attention.

Very truly yours,
/s/ LEWIS E. SAWYER,
Special Agent in Charge."

Agent in Charge Johannes immediately got in touch with the Confidential Informant at Duluth, Minnesota and requested him to be on the lookout for the above subject and to notify this Office.

11/27/25.

Agent in Charge Johannes has received a letter from this Informant stating that he has been unable to learn that CYRIL BRIGGS visited Duluth, Minn. or Superior, Wisconsin.

While at Superior, Wisconsin, and Duluth, Minn., Agent was requested to check up this matter and ascertained thru the Secretary of the Co-operative Exchange that Subject had not spoken in the Hall of the Exchange. The Secretary also said that he had never heard of CYRIL BRIGGS.

P.G. COYNE, Secretary of the Chief of Police in Superior, questioned a couple of undercover men that keep him posted on radical activities in West Superior and they both reported that they had never heard of subject.

No one by name of subject has called for mail at the General Delivery window of the Postoffice at either West Superior or Duluth.

Unless further request, with more specific information, is made investigation at Minneapolis Office is considered

CLOSED.

190-1781-6