

City 1

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 10-19

RE: P

61-44-1

DIVISION

OCT 24 1971

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

1761 72 130

Supplied by FBI thru FOIA - see letter Apr 29, 1982

IN RE: CYRIL BRIGGS
Communist Activities.

IS DEVELOPED

Arrived in the vicinity of 2299-7th Avenue, at 7 A.M. and up to 9.40 Briggs was busy with papers at the desk in his room. At this time he left and went to the newstand on the northwest corner of Lenox Ave. and 135th Street and bought a newspaper, and on the way home stopped at M. L. CAMPBELL'S Tailor Shop, 127 West 135th St. where he conversed with another Negro for about 10 minutes, then returned to his house and engaged himself in looking over the daily papers.

At 12.15 P.M. was instructed to discontinue on this matter.

P 134

7/25/75
declassified
by 3347
J.D.

~~3347~~
~~475~~
~~10/21/74~~

DELETED COPY SENT
BY LETTER 4-27-76
PER FOIA REQUEST

61-44-1

67C

EE INVE

FILE
W.W.G
J.D.

REFERENCE

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO

~~BOOVER~~

61

41

MADE AT New York City	DATE WHEN MADE 10-20-21	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10-16	REPORT MADE BY P-134
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4C

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:
 IN RE: CYRIL BRIGGS
 Communist Activities.

RECEIVED
 OCT 23 1921
 DIVISION

FACTS DEVELOPED

was engaged in the vicinity of 2299-7th Avenue, New York City from 1 P. M. to 8 I.M. but failed to see Briggs enter or leave the premises. Also went to the hall on West 138th Street, where the Negroes congregate, but also failed to find him there.

P 134

DELETED COPY SENT [REDACTED] 67C
 BY LETTER 4-27-76
 PER FOIA REQUEST *HW*

DEC 12 1921

61-44-2

RECORDED

OCT 22 1921
BU INVE

HOOVER
JWD.

REFERENCE

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

MADE AT	DATE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT
New York City	10-20-21	10-18	P 134

61

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE
 IN RE: ⁰ CYRIL BRIGGS
 Communist Activities.

OCT 22 1921
 DIVISION

FACTS DEVELOPED

Remained in the vicinity of [redacted]'s home, 299-7th Avenue, until 3.30 PM. at which time he left and walked to 135th St. and Lenox Avenue and took a Lexington Avenue trolley, going to 933 Lexington Avenue, the office of DR. G. M. SOLTYS, who occupies the main floor. He entered about 4 PM. and left at 4.10, taking the trolley back to 135th Street and Lenox Ave. After getting off here, he went to the subway entrance on the northeast corner of Lenox Ave. and 135th Street and spoke to one of the Negro newsboys, then proceeded to his home. At 5.10 PM he came out with a number of A. B. B. circulars, and went to the subway entrance and was met by two or three small colored boys between the ages of 9 and 13, to whom he gave about 500 copies each of the circular and directed them to distribute same among the colored people coming out of the subway, as well as passing by. These circulars were distributed until 5.30 when a police officer, Badge No. 960, brought one of the boys over to Briggs and told him to stop distributing same. After about 10 minutes Briggs returned to the house.

At 5.40 PM Briggs left the house, and proceeded in the direction of Lenox Avenue, and on the way met a Negro, well dressed, 5', 2 or 3"; 140 lbs; 28 years old; clean shaven; very dark, gray soft hat, blue serge suit, tan shoes. and after a short talk walked to 7th Avenue and [redacted] Street, where [redacted]

REFERENCE
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 ET LETTER 4-27-76
 PER FOIA REQUEST 7/10
 JAN 13 1922

P 134 for October 18, 1921. Cyril Briggs

conversation for 20 minutes, after which Briggs returned to his home.. At 7 PM he left with three or four books, and went to the Public Library, 103 E. 135th Street, and returned to the house at 8 PM..

Discontinued at 9 PM. but failed to see anything of Briggs up to that time.

P 134

JED.

REPORT MADE AT

New York City

DATE

10-20-21

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

10-17

REPORT MADE BY

P 134

61

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

IN RE: CYRIL BRIGGS
Communist Activities.

RECEIVED
OCT 23 1921
D VIB 01

FACTS DEVELOPED

Remained in the vicinity of 2299-7th Avenue until 3 P.M. at which time Briggs was seen to enter. He remained until 7.10 P.M. when he came out and proceeded to the office of "The Chicago Defender", 225 West 135th Street, where he gave a man in the office a paper of some kind, probably a circular. Briggs remained about five minutes, then went to his home, and about two minutes later, came out again and went to the newstand at Lenox Ave. and 135th Street, bought a newspaper and returned to the house, later coming out again with a number of letters, and placed same in the letter box at 7th Ave. and 135th Street and also 7th Ave. and 136th Street. He then returned to the house and was observed folding or wrapping some kind of printed matter until 8.25 P.M. at which time he extinguished the lights in the room. Up to 9.40 failed to see Briggs either enter or leave the premises, and then discontinued for the day.

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BY LETTER 4-27-76

PER FOIA REQUEST

[REDACTED] b7c

RECORDED
G.F.

P 134
JAN 11 1921

61-44-4

JND.
BU BUREAU

REFERENCE

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BOOKS

FILE

61-44

October 25, 1921.

Mr. Edward J. Brannan,
Box 241, City Hall Station,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

In connection with the case of CYRIL BRIGGS,
it is understood that this man does his banking at the
Chelsea Bank, 1301 Street and 7th Avenue. It is desired
that you ascertain his financial state at the present
time and keep in close touch with his bank transactions.

Very truly yours,

M. J. Quinn
Director.

DELETED COPY SENT [redacted] 67C
1. 4-27-74
PER SSA REQUEST
H.A.

100-275204-1
61-44-3

OCT 28 1921

Instruct

Spec. Agt. in Charge

Brennan

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N.Y.	DATE WHEN MADE 10/31/21	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/26/21	REPORT MADE BY K.J. DAVIS
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TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

RE: CYRIL BRIGGS
African Blood Brotherhood
Negro activities.

GENERAL INVESTIGATION - 44
NOV 4 1921
DIVISION

Noted
F.D.W.

FACTS DEVELOPED

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 [redacted] of that bank.

He advised that Briggs does not carry a personal account there but there is a small balance under the name of the CRUCIAL MAGAZINE. This account has been there for a long time and is characterized by [redacted] as a "rotten account," in that it never exceeds \$75.00 or \$100.00 at any time. [redacted] 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.

Briggs is not known to the officials at the bank.

CONCLUDED.

DELETED COPY SENT [redacted] b7C

BY LETTER 4-27-76

FEDERAL REQUEST

M.W.

DEC 12 1921

FILE
NO. 6

RECORDED

100-345204-X5
61-44-6
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
NOV 1 12 A.M.

REFERENCE

100-345204

100-345204

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

CJS-JWD.

NY File # 218 B

October 19, 1923.

11th BRIGGS

61 44

W. H. Bohner, Esq.,
Room 913, Hurley Wright Building,
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

IN RE: ~~A~~FRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD - Negro
Radical Activities - Cyril V. 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

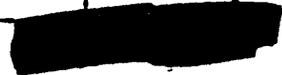
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE
OCT 20 1923
DIVISION

100-575204-X6
RECORDED & INDEXED

61-44-7

OCT 26 1923

DELETED COPY SENT  b7c

BY LETTER 4-27-76

PER FOIA REQUEST

M.A.

C

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 - ~~X~~AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD -
 (All. Negro Radical Activities) 61-44

FACTS DEVELOPED File No. 6700
 Washington, D. C.
ATTENTION MR. HOOVER - 2.

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.

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.

100-575301-42
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

FILE NO. <u>61-44-8</u>	NOV 3 1923
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	GENERAL INTELLIGENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	OCT 30 1923
	DIVISION
ROUTED TO	FILE

CASE CLOSED. DELETED COPY SENT [REDACTED] 670
 BY LETTER 4-27-76
 PER FOIA REQUEST *AD*

REFERENCE COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO Washington 3; New York 1; office 1. JTF:EDS

Deleted Copy Sent John T. Flournoy
 by Letter 4-27-76
 FOIA / [initials]

61-50

October 29, 1920.

r. J. J. McLaughlin,
P.O. Box 600,
St. Louis, Mo.

61 44

Dear Sir:

Information has been received to the effect that CARL BRIGGS of New York City, organizer for the African Blood Brotherhood addresses the Central States Co-operative Wholesale, 21st St. Louis, Ill. as one of the "white 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.

Yours very truly,

M. J. J. McLaughlin
Director.

100-345-204-
RECORDED & INDEXED
~~61-44-9~~

DELETED COPY SENT [REDACTED] 67C
BY LETTER 4-27-76
PER FOIA REQUEST

H.O.

MAILED
OCT 30 1920

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

FACTS DEVELOPED
Washington, D. C. 16700 61 44

Attention Mr. Hoover.

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

Agent interviewed [REDACTED]

N. W., President of [REDACTED], and also the [REDACTED], 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 [REDACTED]

Secretary of [REDACTED], 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. [REDACTED] promised to locate this man and arrange for an interview with Agent who will pose as prospective member of organization.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

FILE NO. 61-44-10 NOV 15 1923

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RECEIVED & INDEXED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO [REDACTED] b7c

BY LETTER 4-27-76

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Deleted copy sent to [REDACTED] 4-13-76 FWA/bj/c

b7c
b7d

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 [REDACTED] b7c b7d 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 AFRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD has organized in New York, under supervision of subject, and is located at #2299-7th Avenue.

It is the opinion of [REDACTED] b7c b7d 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.

REPORT MADE AT <u>Minneapolis, Minn.</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>11/27/23</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>11/23/23</u>	REPORT MADE BY: <u>Fred A. Briggs.</u>
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TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE
CYRIL BRIGGS - - - - - ORGANIZER FOR THE ~~A~~FRICAN BLOOD BROTHERHOOD-COMMUNIST.

FACTS DEVELOPED
at Duluth, Minn. & Superior, Wis.: 61-44 (File #9610).

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.,
 508 Federal Bldg.,
 Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:-

The following letter was this date received from the Director, initialed EM-JWM 61-50, 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."

COPIES SENT [redacted] 67C

LETTER 4-27-76
 FOR REQUEST [redacted]
 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.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

66-3455-4-110

61-44-11

DEC 10 1923

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RECORDED & INDEXED

NOV 30 1923

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO FILE

HOOVER

DEC 1 1923

DIVISION

REFERENCE: COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:
 Hoover. Director (2) Milwaukee (1)

Deleted Copy Sent Ben [redacted]

61-44-11
 PIA/EL/ell

11/27/23.

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.

[REDACTED] ^{b7C}, 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.