

*Freedom of Information Release*

*On*

*Subject: Nikola Tesla*

*File #: 100-2237*

*Pages Reviewed - 160*

*Pages Released - 160*



*Federal Bureau of Investigation*

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b7C

Neeshawken, E.J., 9/24/40.

Department of Justice,  
Attn. Mr. G. Edgar Hoover,  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 JFM/ste

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The appended article was printed in the New York Times issue of Sunday  
September 22, 1940 and if based on proven facts, should be of vital importance to our  
War Department as well as to that of other nations now controlled by insane dictators.

If, as the author states, the teleforce has been perfected by Nikola Tesla, it  
would be a measure of foresightedness to insure his constant guarding against his being  
molested, possibly kidnapped and tortured, by alien enemies for the purpose of seizing  
the secret of such an invaluable instrument of war and/or defense

The foregoing is offered just in case the article and its inferences have not  
been called to your attention.

Very truly yours

b7C

*ENCLOSURE*

RECORDED & INDEXED

100-2237-1

NOV 10 1940 6W7-2M

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 10 1940

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

for producing rays of  
manifestations of er  
Mr. Tesla's method  
high vacuum; a second is a method  
and process for producing "very  
great electrical force"; the third  
is a method for amplifying this  
force, and the fourth is a new  
method for producing "a tremen-  
dous electrical repelling force."  
This would be the projector, or  
gun, of the system. The voltage  
for propelling the beam to its ob-  
jective, according to the inventor,  
will attain a potential of 50,000,000  
volts.

With this enormous voltage, he  
said, microscopic electrical parti-  
cles of matter will be catapulted on  
their mission of destructive de-  
struction. He has been working on this  
invention, he added, for many years  
and has recently made a number of  
improvements in it.

Mr. Tesla makes one important  
stipulation. Should the government  
decide to take up his offer he would  
go to work at once, but they would  
have to trust him. He would suf-  
fer "no interference from experts."

In ordinary times such a condi-  
tion would very likely interpose an  
insuperable obstacle. But times be-  
ing what they are, and with the  
nation getting ready to spend bil-  
lions for national defense, at the  
same time taking in consideration  
the reputation of Mr. Tesla as an  
inventor who always was many  
years ahead of his time, the ques-  
tion arises whether it may not be  
advisable to take Mr. Tesla at his  
word and commission him to go  
ahead with the construction of his  
teleforce plant.

**Such a Device "Invaluable"**

After all, \$2,000,000 would be re-  
latively a very small sum compared  
with what is at stake. If Mr. Tesla  
really fulfills his promise the re-  
sult achieved would be truly stag-  
gering. Not only would it save bil-  
lions now planned for air defense,  
by making the country absolutely  
impregnable against any air attack,  
but it would also save many more  
billions in property that would  
otherwise be surely destroyed no  
matter how strong the defenses are  
as witness current events in Eng-  
land.

Take, for example, the Panama  
Canal. No matter how strong the  
defenses, a suicide squadron of dive  
bombers, according to some ex-  
perts, might succeed in getting  
through and cause such damage  
that would make the Canal un-  
usable, in which case our Navy  
might find itself bottled up.

Considering the probabilities in  
the case even if the chances were  
100,000 to 1 against Mr. Tesla the  
odds would still be largely in favor  
of taking a chance on spending  
\$2,000,000. In the opinion of the  
writer, who has known Mr. Tesla  
for many years and can testify that  
he still retains full intellectual  
vigor, the authorities in charge of  
defending the national defense should  
at once look into the matter. The  
sum is insignificant compared with  
the magnitude of the stake.

NY TIMES 9/11/40

**"Death Ray" for Planes**

Nikola Tesla, one of the truly  
great inventors who celebrated his  
eighty-fourth birthday on July 10,  
tells the writer that he stands  
ready to divulge to the United  
States Government the secret of his  
"teleforce," with which, he said,  
airplane motors would be melted at  
a distance of 220 miles, so that an  
invisible Chinese Wall of Defense  
would be built around the country  
against any attempted attack by an  
enemy air force, no matter how  
large.

This "teleforce," he said, is based  
on an entirely new principle of  
physics that "no one has ever  
dreamed about," different from the  
principle embodied in his inventions  
relating to the transmission of elec-  
trical power from a distance, for  
which he has received a number of  
basic patents. This new type of  
force, Mr. Tesla said, would oper-  
ate through a beam one one-hun-  
dred-millionth of a square centi-  
meter in diameter, and could be  
generated from a special plant that  
would cost no more than \$2,000,000  
and would take only about three  
months to construct.

A dozen such plants, located at  
strategic points along the coast, ac-  
cording to Mr. Tesla, would be  
enough to defend the country  
against all possible aerial attack.  
The beam would melt any engine,  
whether Diesel or gasoline-driven,  
and would also ignite the explosives  
aboard any bomber. No possible  
defense against it could be devised,  
he asserts, as the beam would be  
all-penetrating.

High Vacuum Eliminated  
The beam, he states, involves four  
new inventions, two of which al-  
ready have been tested. One of  
these is a method and apparatus

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DATE 10-19-82 BY SP-10/BJL

100-2237-1

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

EWT:ZM  
100-2237-1

October 1, 1940

[Redacted]

Neenawken, New Jersey

b7C

Dear [Redacted]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 24, 1940, together with its enclosure.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jem/etk

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED  
 ★ OCT 1 1940 ★  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten initials]*



~~TOP SECRET~~  
USE  
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Laboratory use  
on 1/12/43  
200

JAN 12 1943

FBI NYC  
DIRECTOR  
VEST

1-12-43

11-06 PM

WHS

No. To: [redacted]  
Mr. Tolson [redacted]  
Mr. E. A. Tamm [redacted]  
Mr. Clegg [redacted]  
Mr. Glavin [redacted]  
Mr. Ladd [redacted]  
Mr. Nichols [redacted]  
Mr. Rosen [redacted]  
Mr. Tracy [redacted]  
Mr. Carson [redacted]  
Mr. Egan [redacted]  
Mr. Gurnea [redacted]  
Mr. Hendon [redacted]  
Mr. Pennington [redacted]  
Mr. Quinn Tamm [redacted]  
Mr. Nease [redacted]  
Miss Gandy [redacted]

UNSUBS --- EQUIPMENT, EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA, CEASED, ~~REDACTED~~ ESPIONAGE - M. RETEL UNDER ABOVE HEADING TO THE BUREAU FROM THIS OFFICE DATED JAN NINE LAST. INQUIRY DEVELOPS THAT TESLA DIED JAN EIGHT, RATHER THAN THURSDAY, JAN SEVEN, AS ~~REDACTED~~ STATED IN REFERENCE TELETYPE. ON THE NIGHT OF JAN EIGHT, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, AND KENNETH SWEZEY VISITED TESLA-S HOTEL WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF SHAW WALKER CO. IN ORDER TO OPEN THE SAFE IN THE ROOM OF TESLA. KOSANOVICH LATER REPORTED TO WALTER GORSUCH, OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN, NYC, THAT HE WENT INTO THE ROOM IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR A WILL OF TESLA. KOSANOVICH AND THE OTHERS MADE THE SEARCH OF THE SAFE IN THE PRESENCE OF THREE ASST MANAGERS OF HOTEL NEW YORKER AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN CONSULATE, IDENTITIES OF LATTER NOT YET KNOWN. AFTER THE SAFE WAS OPENED, SWEZEY, TOOK FROM THE SAFE A BOOK CONTAINING TESTIMONIALS SENT TO TESLA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVENTY FIFTH BIRTHDAY. THIS BOOK WAS ARRANGED FOR TESLA BY SWEZEY. KOSANOVICH TOOK FROM THE ROOM THREE PICTURES OF TESLA, TWO BEING ENLARGED NEWSPAPER PICTUREX. ACCORDING TO MANAGERS OF HOTEL AND KOSANOVICH HIMSELF, NOTHING ELSE WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROOM OR SAFE. THE SAFE WAS THEN CLOSED UNDER A NEW COMBINATION, WHICH COMBINATION IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF ~~REDACTED~~ KOSANOVICH. ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JAN NINE, GORSUCH AND ~~REDACTED~~ FITZGERALD OF ALIEN PROPERTY CONTROL WENT TO HOTEL AND SEIZED ALL THE PROPERTY OF TESLA, CONSISTING OF ABOUT TWO TRUCKLOADS OF MATERIAL, SEALED ALL ARTICLES AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO THE MANHATTAN STORAGE AND WAREHOUSE CO. NY, WHERE THEY ARE NOW LOCATED. AT THAT ~~REDACTED~~ TIME THERE WERE ALSO IN THIS WAREHOUSE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY BARRELS AND BUNDLES BELONGING TO TESLA WHICH HAD BEEN THERE SINCE ABOUT NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR. THESE HAVE ALSO ~~REDACTED~~ BEEN SEALED AND ARE NOW UNDER ORDERS OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN. IN VIEW OF FACT TESLA IS A US NATURALIZED CITIZEN, ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN FEELS THAT ITS JURISDICTION OVER PROPERTY IS DOUBTFUL BUT ~~REDACTED~~ FEELS THAT NO OTHER AGENCY WILL BE ABLE TO GET ~~REDACTED~~ TO THIS PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS. COPIES DESTROYED 3/10/51 #4

Rec'd 1215a m  
1-13-43  
EW

**COPY IN FILE**  
77 FEB 5 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-13-82 BY SP-6 [redacted]  
100-2237-2  
16 JAN 18 1943  
FBI

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NOT FOIA DELETIONS

PAGE TWO

AFTER THAT TIME IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE APPOINTED FOR THE PROPERTY WHO MAY TAKE THE PROPERTY INTO HIS CUSTODY. TESLA ALSO HAD SOME PROPERTY, ~~ALLEGED BY INFORMANT FITZGERALD~~ IN THIS CASE, TO BE A WORKING MODEL OF AN INVENTION IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL IN NY. INQUIRY SHOWS THAT THIS WAS PLACED HERE BY TESLA IN NINETEEN THIRTY TWO AS SECURITY FOR FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS OWED HOTEL. THIS BILL IS STILL OWED AND HOTEL APPEARS UNWILLING TO RELEASE THIS PROPERTY TO ANYONE AT LEAST UNTIL ~~DEBT~~ DEBT IS PAID, BUT THIS OFFICE WILL BE ADVISED IF ANYONE ATTEMPTS TO PAY BILL AND OBTAIN PROPERTY. CONCERNING TESLA HOTEL MANAGERS REPORT HE WAS ~~VERY~~ VERY ECCENTRIC IF NOT ~~MENTALLY~~ MENTALLY DERANGED DURING PAST TEN YEARS AND IT IS DOUBTFUL IF HE HAS CREATED ANYTHING OF VALUE DURING THAT TIME, ALTHOUGH PRIOR TO THAT HE PROBABLY WAS A VERY BRILLIANT INVENTOR. THEREFORE, ANY NOTES OF VALUE WERE PROBABLY THOSE MADE PRIOR TO THAT TIME. KOSANOVICH IS A NEPHEW OF TESLA WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FORMERLY QUOTE YUGOSLAV MINISTER OF STATE UNQUOTE AND NOW QUOTE ~~PRESIDENT~~ PRESIDENT OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTING YUGOSLOVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND GREECE, UNQUOTE. SWEZEY IS A WRITER FOR POPULAR MECHANICS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS WHO IS ~~DESIROUS~~ DESIROUS OF PUBLISHING A BIOGRAPHY OF TESLA AND THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF HIS NOTES FOR THIS WORK. CLARK IS EMPLOYED BY RCA AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE STORAGE ROOM FOR TESLA'S EFFECTS IN ORDER TO USE THEM IN WRITING A BIOGRAPHY. TESLA AT ONE TIME REPORTED TO BE WORKING ON EXPERIMENTS FOR YUGOSLAVIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. IT IS DESIRED THAT BUREAU ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER IT IS INTERESTED FURTHER IN THIS PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF TAKING CONTROL OF IT. SUGGEST THAT, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE NOTES AND OTHER MATERIAL WOULD BE HIGHLY TECHNICAL IN CHARACTER AND FOR THAT REASON ~~COULD NOT BE REVIEWED~~ ~~EXCEPT BY A TRAINED PERSON~~ THE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

FOXWORTH  
END NYC S2 WHS  
HOLD WA R 2 RSG

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ARE NOT FOIA DELETIONS

7-13-92 801284/mae

- 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. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease

FBI NYC  
DIRECTOR  
COAT

1-9-43

11-30 PM

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS. [REDACTED] EXPERIMENTS AND [REDACTED] OF NIKOLA TESLA, DECEASED. ESPIONAGE - M. NIKOLA TESLA, ONE OF THE GREAT STANDING SCIENTISTS IN THE ELECTRICAL FIELD, DIED ON JANUARY SEVENTEEN FORTY THREE AT THE HOTEL NEW YORKER, NEW YORK CITY. DURING HIS LIFETIME, HE CONDUCTED MANY EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND [REDACTED] WHAT IS CALLED THE DEATH RAY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED BY [REDACTED] ONE OF THE THREE SIX FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, THE NOTES AND [REDACTED] EXPERIMENTS AND FORMULAE TOGETHER WITH DESIGNS OF [REDACTED] NECESSARY TO VITALIZE THEM ARE AMONG TESLA'S PERSONAL EFFECTS, AND NO STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PRESERVE THEM OR TO KEEP THEM FROM FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNFRIENDLY TO THE WAR EFFORT OF THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO SPANEL, A DISTANT RELATIVE OF TESLA, NAMED [REDACTED] KOSANOVICH, WHO WAS INTENSELY DISLIKED BY TESLA, IS TAKING STEPS TO SECURE POSSESSION OF THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND PLANS. SPANEL BELIEVES THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT KOSANOVICH WILL MAKE THIS MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO THE ENEMY. SPANEL ADVISED TWO HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS MR. MORKIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, CONCERNING THE ABOVE. SPANEL WAS ALSO IN TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION WITH [REDACTED] DR. D. LOZADO, ONE OF THE ADVISORS TO VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND LOZADO TOLD SPANEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECTS OF TESLA AND REQUESTED SPANEL TO LOSE NO TIME IN DOING ALL HE COULD TO PRESERVE [REDACTED] THEM. ELOYCE FITZGERALD, AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WHO HAD BEEN QUITE CLOSE TO TESLA DURING HIS LIFE TIME, ADVISED THE NEW YORK OFFICE THAT ON JANUARY SEVENTH, NINETEEN FORTY THREE, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE MUSEUM AND LABORATORY FOR RCA, AND KENNETH SWEZEY OF ONE SIX THREE MILTON STREET, BROOKLYN, NY, WENT TO TESLA'S ROOMS IN THE NEW YORKER, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A [REDACTED] LOCKSMITH BROKE INTO A SAFE WHICH TESLA HAD IN HIS ROOMS IN WHICH HE KEPT SOME OF HIS VALUABLE PAPERS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT ELECTRICAL FORMULAE, DESIGNS, ET CETERA. WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, TESLA TOLD FITZGERALD THAT HIS EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND PERFECTED. ENCLOSURE

*Memo to Director*  
*1/11/43 ybd*  
*Memo to Director*  
*1/11/43 ybd*

100-2237-3  
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 1 JAN 18 1943  
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Redactions on this page  
 are not FOIA deletions

PAGE TWO

FITZGERALD ALSO KNOWS THAT TESLA HAS CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED A REVOLUTION-  
ARY TYPE OF TORPEDO WHICH IS NOT PRESENTLY IN USE BY ANY OF THE NATIONS.  
IT IS FITZGERALD'S BELIEF THAT THIS DESIGN HAS NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE  
TO ANY NATION UP TO THE PRESENT TIME. FROM STATEMENTS MADE BY FITZ-  
GERALD BY TESLA, HE KNOWS THAT THE COMPLETE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
AND EXPLANATION OF THE BASIC THEORIES OF THESE THINGS ARE KEPT IN SOME PLACE IN  
THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF TESLA. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT TESLA IS A WORKING  
MODEL OF TESLA'S WHICH COST MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BUILD IN  
A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX BELONGING TO TESLA IN THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR  
CLINTON L. WALKER HOTEL, AND FITZGERALD BELIEVES THIS MODEL  
HAS TO DO WITH THE SO CALLED DEATH RAY OR THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF  
ELECTRICAL CURRENT. TESLA HAS ALSO TOLD FITZGERALD IN HIS CONVERSATIONS  
THAT HE HAS SOME SIXTY EIGHTY TRUNKS IN DIFFERENT PLACES CONTAINING  
TRANSCRIPTS AND PLANS HAVING TO DO WITH EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED BY HIM.  
BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHAT, IF ANY ACTION SHOULD  
BE TAKEN CONCERNING THIS MATTER BY THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION.

FOXWORTH

CORRECTION- THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TELETYPE THE NAME THAT SHOULD APPEAR  
IS FITZGERALD NOT FITZGERALD AS IT SOMETIMES IS  
SPELLED

HOLD

Redactions on this page are  
not FOIA Deletions

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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

January 11, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-2-82 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

MEMORANDUM FOR

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
EXPERIMENTS AND  
OF NIKOLA TESLA  
SPIONAGE - R

Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field, died at his residence in the Hotel New York City, on January 7, 1943. In the course of his life he conducted many experiments with respect to the transmission of electrical energy by means of radio and what is commonly called the "Death Ray". His experiments with respect to the wireless transmission of electrical power were reported to have been completed and perfected, and Tesla had also conceived and designed a revolutionary type of torpedo which is not in use by any nation at the present time. The specifications, explanations of the basic theories, and working models of Tesla's scientific endeavors are reported to be among his effects. Tesla is reported to have some 80 trunks in different places containing transcripts and plans having to do with his experiments as well as a working model of one of his developments in the safety deposit box at the Governor Clinton Hotel.

Information concerning Tesla's experiments has been reported to the New York Office by A. M. Spanel and Bloyd Fitzgerald, the latter an electrical engineer who had been quite close to Tesla. Both of these individuals have indicated that no steps have been taken to preserve Tesla's records and models or to keep them from falling into the hands of individuals sympathetic to the Axis powers.

Tesla has a distant relative by the name of Sava Kosanovich, whom he intensely disliked. Kosanovich is reported to be taking steps to get possession of these important documents and plans, and Spanel believes there is a strong likelihood that Kosanovich will make such information available to the enemy. On January 7, 1943, Kosanovich, accompanied by George Clark, in charge of the Museum and Laboratory for RCA, and Kenneth Swezey of Brooklyn, New York, entered Tesla's rooms at the Hotel New Yorker where, with the aid of a locksmith, they broke into a safe in which Tesla kept some of his valuable papers, including important electrical formulae, designs, et cetera.

INDEXED

100-2237-5

Mr. Spanel, in addition to reporting these developments to the Bureau, has also advised the headquarters of the Military Intelligence Division, a member of the Department of Justice in Washington, and Dr. JAN 13 1943 of the advisors to Vice President Wallace. Lozada advised Spanel that the Government was vitally interested in the effects of Tesla and requested that Spanel lose no time in doing all he could to preserve them.

COPIES DESTROYED



55 JAN 23 1943

*Handwritten signatures and initials*  
1-12-43

The New York Office was instructed to discuss the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the view of possibly taking Kosanovich into custody on a burglary charge and obtaining the various papers which Kosanovich is reported to have taken from Tesla's safe. It was pointed out that any activities pursued by the State's Attorney should be handled in a most secret fashion in order to avoid any publicity with respect to Tesla's inventions. The New York Office was also instructed to contact the Surrogate Court in order that stops could be placed against the papers of Tesla both in his hotel and any other points, in particular, the safe deposit boxes that he may have in order that no one may enter them without a Bureau representative being present and every precaution taken to preserve the secrecy of Tesla's inventions. The New York Office is to keep the Bureau advised of all developments.

Respectfully,

*[Signature]*  
D. I. Ladd

*F. M. C. Smith is handling this work already. Property Custodian so there appears to be no need for us to mess around in it.*

*Ear*



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

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
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- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

EAT:DS

January 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

*[Handwritten initials]*

On Friday, January 8th, Mr. L. M. C. Smith called me in connection with the death of Nikola Tesla. He advised me that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla, who had died on January 7th. He understood that the War Department was interested in this matter and that apparently the Alien Property Custodian's office was taking some action. He desired to know whether the Bureau would take some steps to refrain relatives of Tesla from taking the contents of his trunks and whether the Bureau would seize possession of the trunks. Mr. Smith indicated that he was talking to the Alien Property Custodian along the same lines. I told him that in view of the fact he was going to handle the matter with the Alien Property Custodian's office, there did not appear to be any action which the Bureau could or should take.

*[Handwritten signature]*

INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-82 BY *[Handwritten initials]*

Very truly yours,  
*[Handwritten signature]*  
Edw. A. Tamm

*[Handwritten signature]*  
admiral *[Handwritten initials]*

1 ENCL. 1  
12:30 pm 1/13/43  
Called Lincum  
& instructed  
further action  
*[Handwritten initials]*



RECORDED

100-2237-3  
8  
1 JAN 13 1943  
*[Handwritten initials]*

JAN 22 1943  
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████████████████████  
Milwaukee 6, Wis.  
April 16, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-3-82 BY SP4 Jmm/pte

Mr. J. E. Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am a student at the Milwaukee  
School of Engineering, studying Electrical  
Engineering. I am also interested in the life  
and work of Nikola Tesla. I understand  
that at the time of his death, your department  
took his manuscript and experiment data for  
national security. I am preparing a paper  
to be presented before the student branch of the  
American Institute of Electrical Engineers on  
Tesla.

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
14 SE 16  
760-2237-3X

If it is possible, I would appreciate  
material bearing on Tesla's <sup>invention of the</sup>  
and methods of experiment.

F B I  
13 APR 25 1948



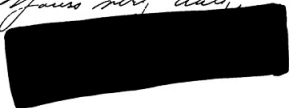
This information would help me in a better presentation of this paper and consequently a far greater appreciation of his work in the field of science.

I know that a part of my experiments and those have a secret classification, and I do not expect any of it.

I am interested in "Hemond Current Transmission" as the basis of my thesis for graduation. If it is possible to obtain this information, I would be very grateful.

Yours very truly,

b7c



100-2237-3X April 22, 1948

RECORDED

79-4-1953-12  
 [Redacted]  
 [Redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 2-3-82 BY SP/...

Dear [Redacted]:  
 Your letter of April 14, 1948, has been received and I want to express my appreciation to you for having written me as you did. The effects of Nikola Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. It is suggested you may desire to communicate with the Office of Alien Property, United States Department of Justice, 101 Indiana Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
 Director

NOTE: This individual requests information relative to the work of Nikola Tesla relative to electrical experiments he was conducting, which when understood were taken by this Bureau and held for security reasons. Bureau file 65-47001 reflects that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property.

YVP:jac

- Tolson
- E.A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Carson
- Egan
- Gurnea
- Hendon
- Mumford
- Quinn
- Nease
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED 8  
 APR 20 1948 P.M.  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 MAY 10 1948

APR 7 00 PM '48  
 RECEIVED-READING ROOM

April 3, 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-80 BY *[Signature]*

*gm*

[Redacted]

b7C

Washington, D. C.

My dear [Redacted]

Reference is made to your inquiry by telephone on March 29, 1950, concerning certain technical papers which belonged to the late Nikola Tesla.

From an examination of our files, we have been able to determine that this Bureau has never been in possession, as had been indicated to you, of a copy of Dr. Tesla's papers.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

100-2257-2 X1

RECORDED - 53

APR 7 1950

PJC:mes

EX-115

APR 3 5 10 PM '50  
RECEIVED RECORDS ROOM  
FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

APR 4 11 20 AM '50  
RECEIVED RECORDS ROOM  
FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 4  
APR 4 1950  
COMM. - FBI

Director, FBI  
SAC, New York

April 17, 1950

SAVA N. KOSAROVICH  
INTERNAL SECURITY-TU  
(Bufile 65-47953)

Rebulet dated April 3 last.

On April 7, 1950 agents of this office interviewed Mr. J.V. POTES, Vice President of the Manhattan Warehouse and Storage Company, 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City, and at that time Mr. POTES advised that the rules of his firm required that all persons gaining access to goods stored by Manhattan first had to fill out an appropriate form setting forth their names, date of visit, and reason for requesting access to the goods.

In a review of the file pertaining to the storage of the effects of NIKOLA TESLA, MR. POTES revealed that only one such visit had been made by persons outside of the management of Manhattan Storage itself. This one occasion took place on January 26 and 27, 1943, at which time representatives of the Alien Property Custodian made a thorough review of the entire effects of the TESLA estate.

*NIKOLA TESLA*

The TESLA effects are stored in rooms 5J and 5L of Manhattan Storage's warehouse at 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City. MR. MICHAEL KING, who stated he had been floor Supervisor for approximately 10 years on the floor in question, stated that he could recall only the one occasion in early 1943 when an examination was made of the TESLA effects. He stated that at that time numerous photographs were taken by the examiners. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of some of the papers of the deceased scientist. MR. KING added that several of the group making the examination wore U.S. Navy uniforms, and during the two days required to complete the examination the civilian assistants in the group were identified to him only as "FEDERAL AUTHORITIES". According to MR. KING, no other instance of microfilming of the records of the TESLA estate has taken place since that time.

It should be noted that the Bureau was informed of the examination mentioned above by New York letter (with attachments) dated October 17, 1945, entitled UNKNOWN SUBJECT; SAVA KOSAROVICH; Experiments & Research of NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased), Espionage-M.

cc: 65-12290

EBH:JUC  
105-1371

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-3-80 BY *[Signature]*

100-2237-2  
NOT RECORDED  
148 MAR 24 1950

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-1795-22

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 105-1391

MR. POTTS stated that no inquiry had been received by Manhattan from SAVA N. EDSANOVICH, nor had Manhattan informed him, in any way, that an examination of the TESLA effects had been made by anyone. In fact, added MR. POTTS, the only correspondence relating to the TESLA estate has been in the form of bills for storage.

MR. POTTS stated that any personal inquiries regarding the estate would of necessity be directed to him, and to date no such inquiries have been made.

Interviewing agents explained to MR. POTTS that the examination made, as mentioned above, was not instigated by the Bureau, nor had the Bureau taken part in that examination.

Unless advised to the contrary, this investigation is being placed in a closed status, and no further investigative action is contemplated by this office. CLOSED.

b7C

Minneapolis 14, Minnesota  
August 18, 1952

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Records  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jap/rtc

Gentlemen:

In a manner of introduction, I wish to state that I am working toward a degree in Electrical Engineering at the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota.

For several years, I have been engaged in a study of extensive compass and detail concerning the researches and writings of the late, world renowned scientist, Dr. Nikola Tesla. At considerable expense, I have acquired an extensive collection of materials relating to Dr. Tesla and his works which include:

- 1) Personal letters written by Tesla to his close friend.
- 2) Numerous periodicals, some of which are to be found in only a few libraries throughout the United States.
- 3) A few rare books which have now become "collector's items".
- 4) A collection of issued patents.

Although the items listed are considerable in number, the specific information desired is lacking.

As I understand it, because of the nature of Dr. Tesla's role in scientific developments, all research papers, patent applications, etc., were secured by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the time of Dr. Tesla's death in January of 1943.

The purpose of this seizure, as described in numerous articles, was to determine whether these papers contained suggestions leading toward advancements in the field of science.

Reply  
8-26-52  
21

RECORDED - 68

w-28

4  
Pr. [Signature]  
[Signature]

Now it seems that sufficient time has elapsed for an investigation of this kind. If Dr. Tesla's Estate has been released by the department in charge, any records that can be made available for examination will be welcomed.

A letter from Harold I. Baynton, Assistant Attorney General, Director, Office of Alien Property, informed me that the Library of Congress listed certain works, writings and research studies prepared by the late Dr. Tesla. However, a letter addressed to the Library failed to bring results as the Library "has no files on the researches of Tesla".

A similar result was obtained from the Bureau of Naval Research and the Department of Commerce.

I am especially interested in the research work in which Tesla was engaged in his later years. There are various unpublished works, such as a 10-page typewritten statement presented in 1937 at a meeting of several well-known editors outlining his discoveries and giving a resume of his work in the fields of gravity and cosmic ray research, etc. Also, Tesla prepared various papers, one of which was in effort to secure the Pierre Gutzman Prize from the Institute of France. My inquiry is in effort to determine whether any of these documents, as well as others, are at this time available.

I will greatly appreciate any information in regard to any records which you may have.

Very truly yours,

b7c

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

August 26, 1952

Ex - 28  
b7C INDEXED 68  
RECORDED - 68

████████████████████  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota  
100-2237-4

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-88 BY SP4 Jap/ete

Dear ██████████  
With reference to your letter of August 18, 1952, our files disclose that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody at the time of his death by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. Consequently, you may wish to communicate further with that agency, which may be addressed as follows: (65-47953)

Assistant Attorney General  
Rowland F. Kirks  
Director, Office of Alien Property  
United States Department of Justice  
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (with copy of  
Rowland F. Kirks (indorsing)  
Director, Office of Alien Property  
United States Department of Justice  
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

MAILED 10  
AUG 26 1952  
COMM-FBI

PJC:aww  
100-2237

NOTE: No reference Bureau files on correspondent in Minnesota.. 8-22-52...per ██████████

50 SEP 10 1952

b7C

AUG 26 6 07 PM '52

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12



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. E. BELMONT

DATE: May 5, 1948

FROM : MR. L. L. LAURITZ

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/pte

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

A [redacted] Ordnance Section of the Bureau of Standards (En 2-4940, extension 623) called on the afternoon of May 4, 1948.

[redacted] stated that he had been reading a book entitled, "The Proud Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" by John J. O'Neill, whom [redacted] described as a science writer for a New York newspaper (Publisher - Ives Washburn). [redacted] noted in this book that Bureau Agents went to Tesla's room following his death on January 7, 1943, opened his safe, examined his papers, and took over his personal files. [redacted] said this appeared on page 277. Mr. [redacted] stated that Tesla was the father of modern power engineering, being responsible for the invention of the A. C. generator, motor transmission, and other electrical engineering facts. He inquired (1) if the papers and works of Tesla were in the possession of the Bureau, and (2) if so, were they available for review in view of their scientific importance.

b7C

I told Mr. [redacted] that the statement concerning the Bureau's taking Tesla's files did not seem very logical but that I would check on the matter.

The Bureau's files reflect that shortly after the death of Tesla in his hotel room in New York City on January 7, 1943, Sava Kosanovich, a distant relative, and other individuals entered his room and opened the safe, examining certain materials which he possessed. On January 8, 1943, 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 apparently the Office of Alien Property Custodian was taking some action regarding these effects. Since the matter was being handled by the Office of Alien Property Custodian, the Bureau did not make any inquiries into this situation. (65-4953-6)

It is noted also that the Bureau received a letter dated April 16, 1948, from Mr. [redacted] of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, explaining that he was studying electrical engineering at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and [redacted] 100-2237-4X

L.L.L:mer

INDEXED

MAY 6 1948

65-47-52

1 - Mr. Nichols

SP SEQ

was interested in the life and works of Tesla. [redacted] stated that he understood at the time of Tesla's death the Bureau took his manuscripts and experiment data for national security. The Bureau on April 23, 1948, advised [redacted] that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property and not by the FBI. (65-47953-16)

I called Mr. [redacted] this morning and told him that it was the office of Alien Property and not the FBI which took over the effects of Tesla following his death. Accordingly, I suggested that Mr. [redacted] might wish to communicate with the office of Alien Property for further information concerning this matter.

The book "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" is not in the Bureau Library. A copy is being obtained from the Library of Congress. It will be examined to determine specifically the reference made to the Bureau's taking these papers. At that time a determination can be made as to what further action should be taken.

b7C

ADDENDUM: LLL:mer 5-14-53

Page 277 of the "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla," describing Tesla's death, contains the following statement: "Operatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation came and opened the safe in his room and took the papers it contained, to examine them for a reported important secret invention of possible use in the war."

Since this work was published in 1944, it is not felt that any particular purpose would be served by raising an objection with the publishers at this time. [redacted] the individual who raised the question, has been set straight and, therefore, no further action is being taken.

AKG

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 9/20/54  
INDEXED

FROM : SAC, New York (100-2237)

INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

*Complete*

SUBJECT: *RE: I. A. ANDERSON*  
TELETYPE

Mr. GEORGE H. SCHREFF, JR., 140 Bedford Road, New Rochelle, New York, advised that he received two letters from IRLAND W. ANDERSON, 127 Seymour Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota, photostatic copies of which are being furnished the Bureau and Minneapolis.

Mr. SCHREFF stated that he was an associate of DR. NIKOLA TESLA in 1914 and that for many years his father had been Dr. TESLA'S private secretary. Mr. SCHREFF said that he never heard of IRLAND W. ANDERSON nor did he ever hear of any of the names mentioned in ANDERSON'S letters.

Mr. SCHREFF stated that he has quite a bit of DR. TESLA'S writings in his possession and he didn't know whether or not they would be of value to a foreign government.

Mr. SCHREFF is an Engineer with Consolidated Edison in New York. He is a member of the "Fitz" to him. He thought they should be brought to the attention of the proper authorities in the U.S. Government.

Mr. SCHREFF stated that if there was anything wrong with the letter he would be willing to cooperate with the FBI.

No further action is being taken by the N.Y. Office, WACB.

Encs. (2)  
1 - Minneapolis (3 Encs.)

EXP. PROC.

*H-enc memo New York*  
*ETB: aas*  
*3-10-54*  
*RECORDED - 15*  
*INDEXED - 15*  
*EX-12*

*100-2237-4X1*  
*4773*  
MAY 11 1954  
*3-11 MO*  
*CHAS. W. ANDERSON*  
*WACB*  
*WACB*

*BIRD*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Leland I. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 3, 1954

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.  
149 Seacord Road  
Westchester, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Scherff:

re.: The Life and work of Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Recently, I have founded an organization in name and honor of Dr. Tesla in cooperation with several people who were intimately associated with Tesla during his lifetime, and with others who are interested in Dr. Tesla and his achievements from a scientific and historical standpoint. (See enclosed brochure.) I have had some difficulty locating a few of Tesla's associates, and, the name of George Scherff is among them. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that you, Mr. Scherff, are the person I seek as having been associated with Tesla.

I have personally studied the works of Tesla for a number of years, being particularly interested in elaborating upon his researches regarding high-tension radiant beams. Through some travel and other efforts, I have been fortunate to locate many original collections of Tesla's correspondence and manuscripts, and in a few cases obtained a number of interesting items.

I was in New York a short time ago on business, and while there I visited Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey. He intends to undertake some significant work on behalf of Tesla in the near future, and since he knew Tesla for so many years during his later life, it will be handled with great understanding.

I hope that you may have some interest in the work which I have initiated on behalf of Dr. Tesla. There are many matters that I wish to discuss with you, provided of course, that you are the Mr. Scherff related to the Tesla story. I would be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and will send you all publications of the organization if you wish to receive them.

Very truly yours,

*Leland I. Anderson*

To Those Who Are Interested in the Life and Work of  
Dr. NIKOLA TESLA

Following the death of Dr. Nikola Tesla on the 7th of January, 1943, Mr. John J. O'Neill, former Science Editor of the New York Herald Tribune, presented the biography

PRODIGAL GENIUS  
The Life of Nikola Tesla

- a memorable tribute to one of the most outstanding figures in the entire field of electrical science. Many reading this biography learned of Nikola Tesla for the first time, despite his monumental achievements with which he has won world-wide acclaim in scientific circles. Even those closely associated with the fields of science and engineering discovered a remarkable story not generally known of the brilliant genius Tesla whose sensitive personality and seclusion kept his fame in a shadow.

The TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is being established in the United States in name and honor of Dr. Nikola Tesla by those sharing a mutual interest in his life and work. The organization has as its objective the promulgation of the truth about Nikola Tesla; that a full recognition be made for his unparalleled research work on the effects of currents of high frequency and high potential, and for his achievements in the realms of poly-phase power transmission and telecommunication. It would be the duty of the organization to do all in its power that the name of Tesla win in the eyes of the nation the fame deserving of a truly great American for his contributions to science, industry, and to this country.

A journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization was issued beginning the month of November, 1953. In addition to items of recent and historical interest related to Tesla, the journal will include

- 1) A formal roster of all those who have an interest in the Tesla organization and wish to engage in its activities.
- 2) An opportunity of editorial exchange by members of the organization through the medium of the journal.
- 3) A comprehensive bibliographical listing of all available items concerning Tesla, which would include a cataloging of the various collections of Tesliana not generally known. Such a listing will be of particular importance to librarians in the research field.
- 4) A presentation of hitherto unpublished writings and analyses of Tesla's technical research studies as they become available.

The journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization will be forthcoming at intervals of 1 1/2 - 2 months. Subscription rate is \$1.00 for 10 issues. Membership in the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is concurrent with subscription to the journal.

Leiland J. Anderson  
127 Seymour Ave. S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

REGISTERED

Addressed to:  
Mr. George H. Schorff, Jr.  
147 Seymour Road  
Westchester, New York

White Plains, N. Y.

Mr. George H. Schorff, Jr.  
147 Seymour Road  
Westchester, New York

*Mr. Schorff, Jr.*

VIA AIR MAIL



Leland J. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 12, 1953

Dear Mr. Senerff,

It was so very rewarding to receive your reply concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla... I have initiated an undertaking on behalf of Tesla because I feel that in all right and justice something should be done to perpetuate the name of Tesla and see to it that his name accords a part of the heritage of this nation. A great task perhaps, but as time goes on I believe the name of Tesla will become more significant in scientific developments. I hope that you may have an interest in the organization which I have proposed and established, and I will be honored to have you as a member. The organization is presently set up on the basis of those having a mutual interest in Tesla, with a free exchange of information between members. The first two issues of the journal of the organization are being sent to you under separate cover, and should reach you in a day or two.

Some other members which may be of interest to you are; Muriel Arbus, Dorothy Szerritt, Kenneth Swezey and W. W. Wilhelm. The recent deaths of John O'Neill and Edwin Armstrong were very unexpected, and it is with a great sadness that I received the news and loss of these two members.

Do you know if Mr. Lowenstien had a daughter? The reason I ask is that a woman visited Mr. O'Neill before his death and told him that she inherited a great amount of Testiana from her father - whom I presume to be Mr. Lowenstien. This woman was afraid of disclosing the information by reason of her mistaken notion and fear that she would rudely be rebuffed by the army. You see Mr. O'Neill related to her that a few army officials visited his home with insistent requests for information. Of course all this sort of government interest was aroused by Tesla's "Death-Ray" rumors, played up by enterprising journalists. Well, the result of all this is that she refused to give Mr. O'Neill her married name - only that she married a Stamese prince no less, and moved to some mid-western city. If this woman has the amount of material that Mr. O'Neill intimated, it would certainly be important to locate her.

I believe that one of the valuable efforts of the Tesla organization would be to catalog every piece of information concerning Tesla. I have made a beginning effort along this line, and I hope that before too long all collections of Testiana may be located, cataloged, and reproduced for fear of eventual loss. Through Mary A. Benjamin (of Walter R. Benjamin Autographs in New York) I have obtained a number of significant items of correspondence between Tesla and Robert U. Johnson. The entire collection of correspondence with Mr. Johnson numbers in excess of 70 pieces. I share this collection with Mrs.

Leland I. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

-2-

James W. McOanehey of Long Island. The period of this correspondence runs from 1894-1930. Mrs. McOanehey has another group of correspondence between Tesla and George Sylvester Viereck which is very interesting in that it is from a period later in Tesla's life. (If you wish to receive any photostatic copies from these collections I will be happy to send them to you.)

I am interested to learn whether you have collected any mementoes, correspondence, writings, etc. of Tesla. For a long while I have been trying to locate a copy of the brochure which Tesla issued the first week of February, 1904. It came in a large square envelope bearing a large red wax seal with the initials "L.T." stamped thereon. Quite a number of them were distributed throughout New York and elsewhere by the Tesla enterprise in an effort to secure financial backing for the tower and power plant erected at Wardenclyffe, Long Island. You no doubt know of the brochure of which I speak. I thought it would be interesting to reproduce this brochure and distribute it among the members of the Tesla organization as a memento. Although I have written and inquired about this brochure extensively, I have not been able to locate a copy. Did you ever have one?

I have hopes that in 1956 (The Tesla Centenary) some significant correspondence may be emphasized here in the United States in honor of Tesla. The Tesla Museum in Yugoslavia has obtained the Tesla inheritance, which amounts to 7 tons of apparatus, writings, etc. It is the intention (so stated) of the Museum to publish the entire writings of Tesla, including those in the inheritance, on the Tesla Centenary. I don't know what sort of political propaganda might be injected in this publication, but it occurred to me that it may be appropriate to arrange an advance publication in this country of Tesla's unpublished works. Unfortunately, there is not much to work on as yet. While the Tesla estate remained in this country, photostats of nearly every important paper in the estate were made under order of Wright Field Development Center in Ohio. If these photostats could be located there would be much material for a publication. However, in working with the Library of Congress in preparation of a file on Tesla, these photostats have escaped the most extensive search thus far.

Hoping that you may be interested in the efforts of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL on behalf of Tesla and wish to associate yourself with it, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Leland I. Anderson



# TESLA-INTERNATIONAL

University Station, Box 135  
MINNEAPOLIS - 14 - MINNESOTA

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To Members of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization  
and those interested in the works of  
Dr. Nikola Tesla.

### RARE EDITION REPRINTING

"The Inventions, Researches and Writings of Nikola Tesla"

by

Thomas Commerford Martin

Through special arrangement, it is with great pleasure that the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization announces the reprinting of this classic of technical literature.

Long recognized as the most important and significant work on the early inventions of Tesla, a great demand for this book is anticipated. THIS LIMITED EDITION IS STRICTLY LIMITED; this special offer will not be repeated when the supply is exhausted. Those desiring a copy of the book are therefore urged to reply promptly.

Cost of this book at the special printing rate is only \$4.00 post-paid anywhere within the United States to members and friends of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization.

Leland I. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**



Mr. George Scherff  
149 Seacord Road  
New Rochelle, New York

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**  
**VIA AIR MAIL**

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**



March 10, 1954

SAC, New York

RECORDED - 15

~~65-4973~~

EX-129

Director, FBI  
100-2237-4X1

Not an  
FOIA  
Redaction

LELAND I. ANDERSON  
MISCELLANEOUS; INTERNAL SECURITY - YU

Reurlet 2-19-54 concerning the above-captioned individual.  
Relat forwarded to the Bureau two Photostats of two letters from Anderson  
which were received and made available to your office by George N.  
Scharff, Jr.

There is returned herewith one set of the Photostats received  
by the Bureau as enclosures with your letter inasmuch as it appears  
this set was intended for retention in your office file.

Attachment

ETB:raas

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-82 BY *[Signature]*

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Gentry \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 10  
MAR 10 1954  
COMM. FBI

*MB*

KENNETH M. SWEZE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-80 BY [signature]

163 Milton Street  
Brooklyn 22, N.Y.  
June 25, 1955

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Boardman	.....
Mr. Belmont	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Mohr	.....
Mr. Parsons	.....
Mr. Belmont	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Winterrowd	.....
Tele. Room	.....
Mr. Holloman	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Back in 1943, the local Alien Property Custodian searched through the belongings of the late electrical inventor, Nikola Tesla, stored in the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in New York City. Tesla had been a naturalized American for more than fifty years, so I believe that the search was made on the grounds that the property was to be sent to Yugoslavia, through Tesla's nephew and heir, Mr. Sava Kosanovic (Mr. Kosanovic had been Minister of State under the King's government, later became Ambassador to the United States from the present government, and is now a Minister serving in Belgrade).

According to the attorney who handled the Tesla estate, Mr. Philip Wittenberg, the Alien Property Custodian assured him that nothing had been held. I have a letter from the Office of Alien Property, dated March 15, 1955, which confirms this statement. NY

In gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birthday next year---which will be participated in by leading scientific and engineering societies, museums, and universities---I have just discovered, however, that Tesla's solid gold Edison Medal somehow vanished during that search.

As a friend who had known Tesla well during his last twenty years, I was with Mr. Kosanovic in Tesla's room in the Hotel New Yorker on the day he died. A safe expert was called in to unlock Tesla's safe. Among its contents were several honorary degrees, a volume of greetings which I had gathered for him on his seventy-fifth birthday, a bunch of keys, and the Edison Medal. We kept out the book of greetings (I mentioned this at the time to the assistant manager of the hotel and later to a Mr. Gorsuch of the Alien Property Custodian's office), but everything else, including the medal and the keys, was replaced and the safe was locked. RECORDED - 82 100-23375

Except when it was inspected by the Alien Property Custodian, the safe was never reopened and it was never inspected by the Alien Property Custodian. INDEXED 82

Return - Combs  
6/29/55, Sub. No. 100-23375-390  
6 JUL 11 1955

EXP. PROC.  
JUN 27 1955

arrived in Belgrade (where Tesla's property was to be installed in a special Tesla Museum) and was there opened by Mr. Kosanović. According to his former secretary, both the bunch of keys and the medal were missing. The keys were later found in a tin box outside the safe; the medal was never found.

I learned of the disappearance of the medal only by accident. Mr. Kosanović had asked his former secretary to get permission from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (who gave Tesla the Medal) to have it duplicated. This was given, but the cost, it turned out, would be about four hundred dollars. In the meantime, the Tesla Museum, in Yugoslavia, is quietly trying to raise the money to pay for it.

The irony of this situation is more disturbing than the money involved. By giving us a system which made electric power universally available, Tesla---probably more than any other one man---helped put America on top of the world. At the time he died, his gold Edison Medal was the only material evidence left of this country's appreciation. That this last token should have disappeared---to have to be replaced by his materially poor countrymen overseas for whom he had done nothing---seems a tragic denouement.

*by J. J. Neill, H.C. 2*  
John O'Neill, in his biography of Tesla, states that the FBI broke into Tesla's safe on the day he died, and an article in the current (June) Coronet repeats this. I know this isn't true. I did hear, however, that the FBI somehow lent a hand to the Alien Property Custodian during the latter's search in the warehouse.

If that is so, I thought that perhaps some of your men might remember the conditions under which the search was made and therefore might have a suggestion as to what could have happened to the medal. After this long time, I have no hope that the medal can actually be restored, and I am already trying to interest Americans in making a replacement. But future biographers might be spared a lot of wild guessin, and wrong blaming if some hint could be obtained as to whether the original got lost, strayed, or stolen---and who might have been responsible.

With best regards and sincere appreciation for any help you can give,

Sincerely,

*Kenneth M. Swezey*

Kenneth M. Swezey

P.S.: I am enclosing an editorial from last month's POWER magazine which outlines Tesla's contribution to the electric power industry. *K.M.S.*

## Strange Genius

ASK ANY GROUP of power men to name those who laid the foundation for today's electrical generation and distribution. You'll wind up with an impressive list—Edison, Brush, Thomson, Westinghouse, many others. But there is almost sure to be a significant omission.

Yet this forgotten man conceived the polyphase ac motor—still basic—and devised a suitable system of generation and distribution for applying it. To grasp the magnitude of this contribution, we must turn back to the 1880's when the electrical era was being born, and the "battle of the systems" held sway.

Arc lights and motors were being operated on constant-current series systems. Edison's Pearl Street generating station had opened in 1882, supplying incandescent lamps and, later, dc motors on a constant-potential system. Under the leadership of Westinghouse and Stanley, the advantages of ac distribution were demonstrated. But there was no successful ac motor.

In May, 1888, a young Yugo-Slav engineer, but four years in the United States, read a paper before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In it he described a new ac system. Its heart was the induction motor with its basic and beautiful concept of the rotating magnetic field. The man was Nikola Tesla, the system he described was destined to sweep the field.

With characteristic vision, George Westinghouse realized the fundamental importance of the polyphase ac system and acquired the basic patents. Its first impact on the general public was at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. There a 2-phase generator supplied motors and lamps, and, through rotary converters and motor-generators, a variety of dc equipment.

But it remained for the Niagara Falls power project to demonstrate in the most dramatic way possible that polyphase ac was the system of the future. Since 1886 when a charter to develop its power had been granted, the eyes of the world had been on Niagara. An international commission, headed by Lord Kelvin, had reviewed 17 proposals, found none acceptable. Later, just five years after Tesla's AIEE paper, it was officially decided to use the polyphase system.

In August, 1895, Niagara power was delivered to the first industrial customer and in 1896 ac transmission to Buffalo, 22 miles away, was begun. By that time, the steam turbine had been introduced in America and the modern age of electric power had truly opened.

For Nikola Tesla, these far-reaching inventions were but a beginning. Still to come was brilliant work in high frequencies, thinking basic to much of today's radio art. Yet by the time of his death in 1943, both he and his work had begun to slip into obscurity. Why?

A man of flashing insights and enormous brilliance, Tesla was largely indifferent to the development of his ideas. This he left to others while he followed the lure of new challenges. In later years, his projects became more grandiose, his ways more mysterious, his pronouncements more Olympian. And working alone, as he did, he formed none of the institutional ties that help to perpetuate a record of accomplishment.

Next year—July 10, 1956—will be the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth. It would be fitting for our engineering societies to commemorate this occasion, to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better.

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АМЕРИКАНСКИ  
**СЪБОРАН**

THE AMERICAN SRBOBRAN

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Функција се во француски јазик. — Откога се знајат уредите.

## RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

Largely thru a young American engineer's efforts, the world today is re-scanning the record and achievements of our inventive genius, Nikola Tesla. Of late, even the big-time magazines have devoted space to the amazing career and fascinating character of the pioneering electrical wizard.

The man behind this belated recognition for the one-time Serbian immigrant boy who made millions but died almost a pauper is Leland P. Anderson, head of the Tesla Society, which has headquarters at the University of Minnesota.

Thru travels, correspondence and detailed research, Mr. Anderson has dug up many friends of the late genius and induced them to join in his noble work. A good many of these are American-Serbians. They serve Mr. Anderson and he serves them, with information issued thru his TESLIAN publication. This is, at present, a mimeographed publication issued monthly which casts new light on the known life and record of the late Dr. Tesla.

The latest issue (March-June) informs of progress plans to honor Dr. Tesla even more. It also presents an account of a fascinating editorial, "Strange Genius", by the POWER magazine of the powerful McGraw-Hill publishing line. This editorial traces the introduction of Dr. Tesla's polyphase system, described by Mr. Anderson, as the "most tremendous event in all engineering history."

Editorialist Louis N. Bowler, according to the TESLIAN, answers the perplexing question why, in view of Tesla's important discoveries, he fell short of the comparative popularity won by Edison and Bell. Then in closing, he suggests: "It would be fitting for our engineering societies, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth (July 10, 1856), to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better."

This appears to be just what Mr. Anderson was waiting for. For now, in the same issue of his TESLIAN, he has prepared a form to petition Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield to issue a Tesla commemorative stamp next year.

We are printing this form in duplicate in this issue and we urge all our readers to endorse it with their signatures. Send the completed petition.

NOT CONTAINED  
CLASSIFIED  
BY *[Signature]*

INDEXED-59

NOT RECORDED  
138 JUL 13 1955

AMERICAN SRBOBRAN  
July 29, 1955  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: June 29, 1955

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : L. V. BOARDMAN

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-88 BY [signature]

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

Nikola Tesla, a native of Yugoslavia, was a famous electrical inventor who died in New York City in 1943 where he had lived for many years. In attached letter to Bureau dated 6-25-55 Kenneth M. Swezey, Brooklyn, New York, advises he is gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birth anniversary in 1956. Swezey relates he was present when Tesla's safe was opened by friends after his death and advises the contents were thereafter replaced and then impounded by the United States Alien Property Custodian. Later the safe was removed to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to be installed in the Tesla Museum. Missing from Tesla's effects is a gold Edison medal he had been awarded. Swezey is seeking to locate the medal and has been advised by the Office of Alien Property (OAP) that the OAP held none of Tesla's property. Swezey states he has heard the FBI assisted OAP in handling Tesla's effects while in storage, and accordingly, he asks whether Bureau could assist him in locating the Edison medal. He FBI's assistance to OAP Swezey mentions that in the Tesla biography ("The Prodigal Genius" - 1944) by John O'Neill it was stated FBI broke into Tesla's safe the day he died (1-8-43) to protect contents from enemy hands. Swezey notes this same comment appears in article ("The Genius Who Walked Alone") by Alfred H. Sinks in the June, 1955, "Coronet". Swezey says he knows FBI did not do this. Bufiles not pertinent re Swezey. Bureau did not enter into Tesla safe matter upon Department's advice it was being handled by OAP. Bureau previously aware of comment in O'Neill's book. Per Bufiles Sinks was officer of American Civil Liberties Union in 1930-40; staff member of Communist line newspaper "The Anvil" 1933-37; member of League of American Writers ("CUA report-1944"); close friend of [redacted] reported CP member and suspected underground member. In 1945 Sinks requested for his use as author data re Bureau's microfilm procedure. Was advised no such data available for publication.

b7C

Enclosure *sent* 6-30-55

100-2237

cc - 1 - 65-47953

Ticklers - Mr. Bird

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Boardman

ETB:jaa

(5)

JUL 11 1955

RECORDED 100-2237-6

EX-104

6 JUL 7 1955

[Handwritten initials and signatures]



Memorandum For Mr. Boardman

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Swezey advising Bureau did not participate in the handling of Tesla's effects and that the matter was handled by OAP. Therefore, Bureau unable to be of assistance; that no action be taken relative to Sinks' comment in "Coronet" article.

✓  
OAJ  
GMM  
W  
SE  
W  
W  
W  
SB

June 30, 1955

NA  
NA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/126

Mr. Kenneth H. Swezey  
163 Wilton Street  
Brooklyn 22, New York

(Original)

Dear Mr. Swezey:

With reference to your letter of June 25, 1955, our files disclose the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

6

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

100-2237-6A

COMM - FBI  
JUN 30 1955  
MAILED 25

RECORDED - 26  
INDEXED - 26

24 JUL 1 1955

NOTE:

A cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by ETB:jaa on 6-29-55 in connection with this outgoing mail.

Bufiles contain no derogatory data re correspondent; reflect only that he was close friend and admirer of Tesla.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ETB:jaa  
(5)

Handwritten initials and signatures, including "V", "JMW", and "JH".

NOV 24 1955  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

64 JUL 8 1955

b7C

Downey, California. B.M.

August 1, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In his book, "Prodigal Genius", The Life of Nikola Tesla, Mr. John J. O'Neil says, on page 277, that the F.B.I. went to Tesla's hotel room, opened his steel safe and removed from it, the papers it contained.

Was there ever any publication of what these papers contained? If so, could you inform me where I might obtain a copy of such publication?

If there was no publication of the Safe's content, after more than 10 years, would it be improper to publish them?

If there was no publication of the safe's content, but there were no particular secrets found there in, could you inform me where I might learn what the safe contained?

Any information on this matter will be appreciated.

Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely,

b7C

[Redacted signature block]

(b)  
(7)  
(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-88 BY SP4 J.../...

EX-100

RECORDED

100-2237-6X1

INDEXED

2 AUG 12 1955

RECEIVED

100-2237-6X1  
~~65-47953-34~~

August 11, 1955

RECORDED

EX-104

[Redacted]  
Downey, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-2-80 BY [Signature]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter dated August 1, 1955, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMP  
AUG 11 1955  
MAILED 19

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent. This type of reply utilized by Internal Security Division in answering similar inquiry on 6/30/55. (65-47953-33) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman dated 6/29/55 set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe mentioned was done by the Office of Alien Property.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JRH:sms  
63 SEP 28 1955

[Handwritten signature]