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

January 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
EXPERIMENTS AT
OF NIKOLA TESLA
ESPIONAGE - L

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 _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 JPL/ed

Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outstanding in the electrical field, died at his residence in the New York City, on January 7, 1943. In the course of his life he conducted many experiments with respect to the transmission of electricity 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 developed 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 Blyce 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. & 663 100-2237-3

Mr. Spanel, in addition to reporting these developments to the Bureau, has also advised the headquarters of the Military Intelligence Division, a Mr. Workin of the Department of Justice in Washington, and Dr. JAN 18 1943 of the advisors to Vice President Wallace. Lozado 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.



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The New York Office was instructed to discreetly take the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the view to 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 estate 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,


D. L. Ladd

L. M. C. Smith is handling this with alien property Custodian so there appears to be no need for us to mess around in it.

