

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SEP 6 1955

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer before this Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:	[Redacted]	TELEPHONE NO:	[Redacted]
		DATE:	21 August 1955

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D.	FW'D.		
2	[Redacted]		24A	[Redacted]	<i>Wd. Mr. Coon's</i>
4	[Redacted]	8/29	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	
5	[Redacted]	1 SEP 1 1955	1-100	[Redacted]	
6	[Redacted]	9/1	9/1	[Redacted]	<i>[Handwritten notes]</i>
8	[Redacted]				
9	[Redacted]		2-877 1955	[Redacted]	
10	[Redacted]				
11	[Redacted]				
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MICROFILMED
JAN 16 1969
DOC. MICRO. SER.

MICROFILMED
MAY 2 1956

[Redacted]

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA AIR (Specify Air or Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO. [redacted]

~~SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATION

SEP 6 1955

TO [redacted]

DATE [redacted]

FROM [redacted]

INFO [redacted]

SUBJECT { GENERAL [redacted]
SPECIFIC Mrs. Rea Coconis POLK

Ref: [redacted]

1. Attached (for [redacted] only) is a reproduction of an article by Subject giving a summary of overt details of the George POLK case.

2. The following items regarding the case may be of interest as indications of possible communist involvement on the part of the POLKS, though they do not provide substantial evidence:

- a) George POLK was considered by some in Greece to have Communist leanings because of his critical attitude toward the Greek government which was at the time engaged in civil war with Communist guerrillas in the north. (The George Polk Case, Report of the Overseas Department of State Summary of Proceedings of Polk Trial, April 17, 1947, No. 51)
- b) The opinion has been voiced repeatedly since the trial that much of the truth was hidden. In a re-examination of the case, a Greek journalist named VASSOS TSIMBIDAROS pointed to what he considered the strange behavior of Rea POLK and suggested she knew more than she had told.
- c) The Attorney General of Greece was of the belief that Rea POLK was responsible for the removal of certain missing files from George POLK's office in Athens (State Memo dated 26 May 1949 of conversation between the Attorney General and Raleigh A. GIBSON).

[redacted]
(Issuing Office)

[redacted]

[redacted]

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CLASSIFICATION

d) One of POLK's associates in Greece was Donald Cook MATCHEN, a pro-Soviet CBS correspondent who left the country and went to Rome. [redacted]

e) Winston BURDETT, a CBS correspondent who held the same critical views of the Greek government as POLK (State Dispatch #57, 19 April 1949 from Salonika), investigated the case after the murder and showed special interest in recovering POLK's missing CBS files. (Department of State Summary of Proceedings of Polk Trial, April 14, 1949 No. 51, enclosure 2). In June 1955, BURDETT testified before the House un-American Activities Committee that he had been an active Communist from 1937-1942 and that he had engaged in espionage activities (Newsweek, 13 July 1955).

f) An [redacted] confidential informant of unknown reliability stated that Rea POLK had stated at Columbia University in the summer of 1948 that the Royalists killed her husband and she wanted to avenge his death. [redacted] report, File #100-96717.

g) Rea POLK tried to leave Greece in June 1948 (?) and AMAG took steps to prevent her departure. [redacted]

3. No information is available here on the recent activities of Subject, nor is there any information which would shed light on the purpose of her present visit to Egypt. We would be interested in any suspicious activity on her part which might come to your attention.

Attachment
as stated above

25 August 1955

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[redacted]

[redacted]

(b)(1) 3
(b)(3)

[redacted]