

A BEATLE CONFESSION of dope'

HOW Beatle John Lennon "cleansed" himself of drugs.

This was the theme of a 15-minute defence plea yesterday when the 28-year-old pop idol was fined £150 with £21 costs for having cannabis resin.

Lennon, said solicitor Mr. Martin Polden, cut himself off from drugs at the beginning of this year because he realised they were incompatible with the teachings of Eastern philosophy with which he had become involved.

When detectives from Scotland Yard's Drugs Squad raided his flat in Montague Square, Marylebone, in October, the Beatle said: "I am clean."

And he believed he was, Mr. Polden told Marylebone magistrate Mr. John Phipps.

The drugs found in his flat—219 grains, enough to make 40 reefer cigarettes and worth £10 on the black market—were from his past.

DELAY

He had forgotten all about them, it was claimed.

Said Mr. Polden to the magistrate: "I hope that by accepting that he did make efforts to cleanse himself you will see the charge in perspective."

Lennon, dressed in a black velvet Regency-style suit, plain white shirt and matching tie, appeared in the dock with his 34-year-old Japanese girl friend, Mrs. Yoko Ono Cox.

Tiny Yoko, who left hospital last week after a miscarriage, wore a white Cossack blouse and black trousers.

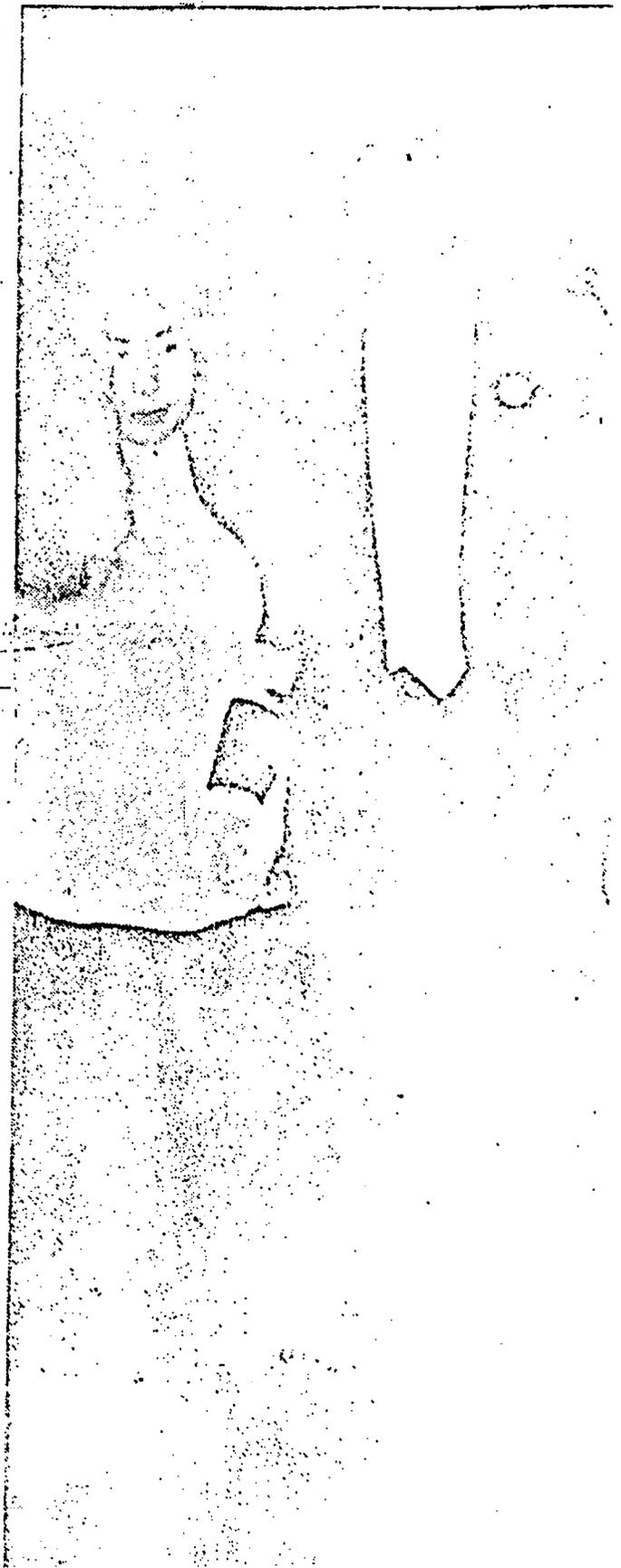
She was in the dock for only two minutes before the two charges against her—having drugs and obstructing Detective Sergeant Norman Pitcher in the execution of a search warrant—were dismissed.

Of the other charge—the obstruction originally alleged was a delay of seven to eight minutes before the police were admitted to the flat—he said:—
"Information has since come to light to indicate there may be a reason for the delay uncon-

**LENNON
FINED
OVER
'TRACES
FROM
PAST'**

By

ARNOLD LATCHAM



ELMER FRIED
ATTORNEY AT LAW

SANDRA G. LEVITT
ALLEN E. KAYE

COUNSEL
LLOYD RICHARD FORSTER
WILLIAM P. VOLIN

515 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

MURRAY HILL 8-8555

June 30, 1969
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
VISA OFFICE

JUN 30 1969

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. George Owen
Director, Visa Office
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Re: Visa Application of John Lennon

Dear Mr. Owen:

I enclose a transcript of the television interview with John Lennon which was shown in your city June 29, 1969. The transcript was from the broadcast in New York on June 22. I specifically call your attention to pages 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

I also enclose an article from the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner dated June 27, 1969, which might give you some insight into why persons like Dr. Tamarkin and Dr. Wynn are so interested in having one of the Beatles available to discuss some of the problems which cause and in turn are aggravated by the so-called "generation gap".

I am somewhat puzzled by some of the comments that I get tangentially. I would like to be perfectly direct and hope that, in turn, people will be direct with me.

1. A nonimmigrant visa application was filed by Mr. Lennon at the Consulate in Montreal; that application is still pending -- the mere fact that the Lennons physically went somewhere else doesn't affect the fact that they still want to come here and have an adjudicated application. Do you consider that they have an application pending?
2. Mr. Lennon has accepted the NIMH invitation as unequivocally as anyone could, considering that no one can set dates without knowing whether a visa will be issued at all and if so, when. Do you consider that the invitation has been accepted?
3. Dr. Wynn would like Mr. Lennon there by July 7 because of holiday schedules of his staff. Mr. Lennon would be willing to

*7/10 - No action
per Owen informed
application filed
Montreal
JL*

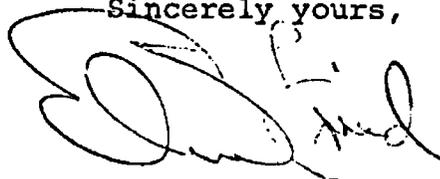
Mr. George Owen
June 30, 1969
Page two.

come by that time -- provided that he had enough notice that he could do so to arrange his affairs. Otherwise the invitation will have to be deferred until the end of the summer, for maximum benefit to the NIMH staff. Do you believe we will have a decision in time for Mr. Lennon to make arrangements to come here?

(I need not repeat my firm belief that the equities of the situation call for the granting of the waiver and the issuance of a visa. I think, in fact, that it would be contrary to our national dignity to refuse a visa to this man on a technical basis. But in any event a nonimmigrant who is making a visit on business, and who has many business interests to occupy him outside the United States, must have some idea where he stands in order to arrange his schedule. I do hope that you will agree with my belief that a visit by John Lennon would be beneficial to the United States in view of the purposes he is coming for and his publicly expressed attitudes against violence and drugs.)

One other item: on page 1 you will find a comment by Stuart Klein, who is apparently a radio announcer in Montreal, suggesting (in the first paragraph) that the Lennons wanted to do a "bed-in" in the United States. The Lennons have no such intention. You will note on page 14 that Mrs. Lennon, in the first full paragraph of her statement (last three sentences) makes it clear that the "bed-in" was simply and openly a way of getting attention to their ideas and has no magic or significance beyond it. Mrs. Lennon specifically told me that she doesn't regard a "bed-in" any longer as being a useful attention getter. Thus, if the Department has feelings about any "unseemliness" about a "bed-in" it need not have such apprehensions.

Sincerely yours,



ELMER FRIED

EF:jm.

-----X
In The Matter Of The :
Non-Immigrant Visa Application :
of :
JOHN LENNON :

-----X
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF SECTION 212(d)(3) WAIVER

INTRODUCTION

John Lennon is a member of the most popular and successful musical group since World War II, The Beatles. He has applied to the American Consulate in Montreal for a visa to enter the United States for a short business visit. He appears ineligible for a visa under Section 212(a)(23) of the Act, by reason of a conviction in England for possession of marijuana. The record is clear that at the time of such conviction, he had already turned away from this type of activity, and expressed publicly his anti-marijuana attitudes -- long before the question of a visa to America arose. The issue is, whether the Secretary of State should recommend, and if so, whether the Attorney General should grant, a waiver of this ground of ineligibility, using the authority of Section 212(d)(3).

It is submitted that every consideration of fairness and of reason urges a favorable decision; that no interest of the United States would suffer from granting this waiver; that it would be contrary to the interests of the United States to deny this application.

To the extent that there are questions unanswered by this memorandum, it is only through inability to anticipate those questions; and we stand ready at any time to supplement this brief

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REASONING

A. Lennon and the Question of Marijuana

Mr. Lennon repudiated artificial mind-stimulants like marijuana when he encountered the Maharishi, and despite the vicissitudes of that encounter, has consistently abstained from such drugs and has publicly deplored their effects on him. The "possession" of which he was convicted was of marijuana which somehow had remained in a case in his house long after he had ceased to use it. Thus, he is not only a rehabilitated former user: he is indirectly a proponent of abstinence. While it is true that he declines to become part of a crusade against drugs, the plain fact is that his credibility would actually be reduced (among those who are drawn to him) by such a stance. He is much more impressive teaching by the example of his abstinence, than he would be by lecturing.

The Department is aware that the National Institute of Mental Health has invited him to appear at a symposium or meeting, of which more details can be furnished by Dr. Tamarkin of that Institute. Dr. Tamarkin has stated to me that in his own meetings with young people, when speaking of drugs he speaks in terms of his own feelings against their use, being careful to avoid appearing to propagandize against them -- for young people can be persuaded by indirection much more than by lecture.

Since Mr. Lennon's views on the undesirability ^{of marijuana use} to him have already been publicly expressed, and since he would consistently express those ideas whenever the question would arise, it should be clear that he must be counted on the anti-drug side of this issue, both emotionally and with respect to whatever effect he might have on listeners, notwithstanding he might maintain

notwithstanding that he cannot be pushed into propagandizing.

It cannot be in the interests of the United States to bar a person so influential with young people, with many of whom the question of the use of artificial mind-stimulants occupies so important a role in their thinking.

B. Lennon and the Question of Violence

One of the most important problems of the day is campus violence and street violence. The President of the United States has expressed his concern, and no area of America is free from such turbulence and the effect of such turbulence.

The record is crystal clear that John Lennon is entirely against violence in any form. He has called upon people to call the Police their brothers, to show the Police that they are loved; he has called upon the young to maintain a continuing dialogue with the older generation and not to turn away from them.

During the last Memorial Day weekend it is well-known that there was a "Parade" in Berkeley, California attended by some 30,000 young people, involving the question of the use of certain open spaces; and when that large group was reported at times to have potential for disorderliness or worse, Mr. Lennon, telephoning several times to the leaders of that march from a hotel in Montreal, urged the leaders to keep things "cool", to keep things peaceful -- and ultimately urged them and prevailed upon them to disband the march and disperse peacefully.

Mr. Lennon is in fact a dramatic, although indirect, influence for peaceful behavior. Surely it cannot be in the interest of the United States to exclude a man who, to the extent that he has influence with young people, can influence them to the side of peaceful actions.

war, Mr. Lennon's public strictures have been far more gentle with the United States than have the comments of many Americans high in public life and certainly more so than that of many prominent highly placed foreign "friends" of the United States. At no time has Mr. Lennon attacked the United States with respect to the Vietnam war, any more than he has held all the nations responsible for wars generally. To the extent that he is against the Vietnam war, he is not against the American role, any more than he is against participation by any other nation including those against whom United States forces are fighting. His public utterances therefore are in no way anti-American; they are simply pro-peace.

Surely it cannot be in the interest of the United States to bar an individual who adheres so closely to the injunction of the Sermon on the Mount, "Love ye one another".

C. Lennon and the Congressional Intent.

Clearly there are two Congressional policies affecting persons convicted of drug or marijuana charges. There is the stern policy of excluding immigrants in this category; and there is the realistic policy of allowing the executive officials to waive the bar in favor of non-immigrants. The executive branch, being thus allowed to use its own judgment as to non-immigrants, has in the past been disposed to grant waivers whenever there is a bona fide purpose to the visit, the individual is no longer engaged in the reprehensible activity, and no harm can be suffered by the United States from the alien's entry. Such considerations clearly apply in favor of John Lennon's application. Indeed, as has been shown above, and as will appear subsequently, there are positive factors favoring a waiver in this case.

D. Lennon's Purpose in Visiting

The visit is primarily for business purposes. He has a new record being produced here; he and his wife have "album-books" under contract with a New York publisher (not of a sensational nature, I have been told). On this visit, Mrs. Lennon wants to bring her American daughter (by a prior marriage) to visit the child's grandparents on Long Island. Mr. Lennon has accepted an invitation by the National Institute of Mental Health to appear at a meeting of psychiatrists and other behavioral scientists, in Washington, D.C., which they feel will help to offer insight into attitudes of the young. (The great problem of today is said to be the "generation gap": The physicians of the NIMH obviously feel that Lennon can offer insight which might help to lessen the gap.)

So important is the latter purpose that when word was out that Lennon might come here and appear before NIMH scientists, other requests have come from behavioral scientists in other parts of the country, hoping that Mr. Lennon might appear there. To illustrate: The undersigned on June 14, spoke with Dr. Robert J. Gaukler, a leading psychiatrist and teacher, located in Villanova, Pennsylvania. Dr. Gaukler expressed the hope that if Mr. Lennon came to the United States he would be willing to appear at a meeting in Philadelphia at which a large number of the leading behavioral scientists of this portion of the country would wish to appear and meet with Lennon. The object, as Dr. Gaukler explained it, was precisely that desired by Dr. Tamarkin, who was so pleased with the possibility of Mr. Lennon's appearance at the request of NIMH. It is quite plain that these two psychiatrists, unknown to one another, saw the same problems

views of Mr. Lennon; both believed that he had very great influence amongst youth; both believe that the influence is more advantageous to society than not; both believe that he can offer insight into the attitudes and behavior of young people and thus help them (the scientists) to understand why the "generation gap" exists, and hopefully, how it can be narrowed.

There is no question that Mr. Lennon's interest in youth would lead him, at his own expense, to meet with these groups of doctors for whatever benefit they might obtain from such meetings.

It is clear that Mr. Lennon's purposes in coming to the United States are legitimate, businesslike, socially useful, and orthodox and proper. To deny him the possibility of carrying out such perfectly legitimate objectives would be to wield power without compassion and without justice.

E. Lennon and our Visa Policies.

There is a serious question whether it is even dignified for the United States of America to refuse a visa to a gifted and popular musician for an act that he does not justify and which, on the contrary, he now deplors. The possession of marijuana was his sin: he has publicly renounced it. If he were coming to advocate the use of marijuana, there would be justification for trying to keep him out, in support of a policy to discourage the use of marijuana. But when Mr. Lennon himself discourages by his example, the use of marijuana, what policy is served by his exclusion?

If the exclusion of such a person is morally groundless, would not the dignity of the Government suffer from excluding him? Such refusal cannot remain secret: would the explanation

refusal was arbitrary? Should our Government make arbitrary decisions? Are we too weak to make humane ones?

F. The Prior Favorable Recommendation by the State Department and Denial by the Justice Department.

Mr. Lennon's London Representative, Peter Brown, was called to the London Embassy on June 10, 1969 and advised that the Justice Department had denied a waiver of the visa application made at London. It is clear, therefore, that State recommended and Justice disapproved. It is to be hoped that State will not fail to recommend again, merely out of discouragement that Justice might not agree. Certainly State's independent functioning as contemplated by Section 212(d)(3), would be frustrated if its actions were governed by its concern that the Justice Department might disagree.

We hope that the State Department will be as favorably inclined on the Montreal application as it was with respect to the London application. We hope that the Justice Department will reconsider the matter afresh, and that this memorandum will help to dispel some adverse impressions it might have had of Mr. Lennon.

SUMMARY

Many press stories of Mr. Lennon have been pure sensationalism --sometimes with only a slight base of fact. If the District Director at New York can complain he was misquoted by the press -- as he has -- how much more can the more-often-interviewed and more loquacious Mr. Lennon make the same complaint. For the State Department or the Justice Department to draw adverse inferences from such reports would certainly not be justified.

This is clearly a case in which the U.S. Government agencies are entitled to have answer to their questions from Mr. Lennon-- and it has the duty to express ^{its} doubts to Mr. Lennon or his legal representative so that groundless suspicions or inferences can be clarified and corrected.

In view of Mr. Lennon's anti-marijuana views, to hold his marijuana conviction against him when he wishes only to make a brief business visit, would hardly seem fair and reasonable. His personal views on marijuana, and on peaceful expression of dissent, are entirely consistent with our Government's views; and the influence of his ideas on young people could be salutary. Indeed, at the start of the now-dreaded "long hot summer", his position against violence might well serve to "cool" those portions of our youthful populace who are admirers of The Beatles and of John Lennon in particular.

In short, no harm at all can arise from granting a waiver to Mr. Lennon; much good can come of it; and a proper sense of fair play requires it.

Respectfully submitted,

ELMER FRIED
Attorney for John Lennon
515 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10022
212-688-8555

Referred to another gov't agency

JUN 1969

CO 703.131

Dear Senator Magnuson:

Reference is made to your recent letter with enclosure regarding the Beatles.

Your correspondent apparently is referring to the recent application of Mr. John W. O. Lennon, a member of the Beatles musical group, for the issuance of a visa. We have been advised that he was refused a visa by the Department of State because of a conviction on November 28, 1968, for possession of cannabis resin. You may wish to request more information from that Department.

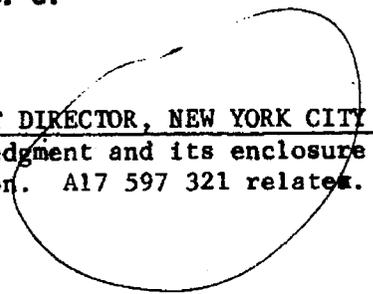
Sincerely,

Raymond F. Farrell
Commissioner

Honorable Warren G. Magnuson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

CC: DISTRICT DIRECTOR, NEW YORK CITY - Copy of letter under acknowledgment and its enclosure attached for your information. A17 597 321 relates.



OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER
JUN 6 1969
SIGNED AND
FORWARDED

7E :01 WU 6- NOV 6961
MAIL SERVICE

United States Senate

May 27, 1959

Respectfully referred to
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service
Congressional Liaison Office

CO 703.131

with thanks for such favorable consideration
as the communication herewith submitted war-
rants, and for a report thereon, to accompany
return of enclosure

By direction of

Warren G. Magnuson

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, U. S. S.

U.S. SENATOR
STATE OF WASHINGTON

WGM:Nash

Encl.

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Best "Reproducible" Copy Available

*Noted
B...*

A17 597 321

May 28, 1969

James F. Greene, Associate Commissioner, Operations
Central Office

Sol Marks, Deputy District Director
New York, New York

John LENNON, Member of the Beatles

In accordance with your telephonic request today, I spoke with Miss Bea Trinks, Privilege and Immunities Officer, United States Mission to the United Nations. She checked this matter with UNICEF and learned that a Mr. Weaver of the United States Committee for UNICEF, a non-governmental organization interested in supporting the activities of UNICEF, had received a call from Mr. Allen Klein of Abko Industries asking if UNICEF would be interested in receiving the proceeds from a benefit performance by John Lennon at the Felt Forum in Madison Square Garden. Mr. Weaver told Mr. Klein that his organization would need time to consider it and determine whether they would find it acceptable. No date was ever mentioned to Mr. Weaver and no specific commitments were made. It was simply an "approach" and nothing more.

We have also learned by checking independently with the Madison Square Garden Corporation that Lennon's agent, a Richard Seaman, had inquired as to the feasibility of renting space in the Felt Forum with a view to "putting on a show" in which John Lennon would appear. UNICEF was not mentioned and nothing further was discussed.

It appears obvious that Lennon or persons in his behalf are attempting to rig things so that a future application for admission will bear some philanthropic coloration.

SM

SM:fs

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

RECEIVED
MAY 13 1969
1:13 PM

TO : District Director
New York, N. Y.

DATE: May 8, 1969

FROM : Joseph H. Kadlec
Acting Officer in Charge
Frankfurt, Germany

SUBJECT: Your A17 597 321, December 14 and 31, 1968; John Winston LENNON

As requested, there are forwarded herewith a true copy of subject's record of conviction for possession of cannabis resin as certified by a consular officer and contents of our work folder. A photostatic copy of the conviction record, not certified, and copies of your subject memorandum are being furnished the Chicago office, which telegraphically on December 1, 1968, also requested same, no file number indicated.

Encl.

John Kadlec

Referred to another gov't agency

Best "Reproducible" Copy Available

A1759 7321

MAR 3 1969

File

CG 703.131

Dear Senator Magnuson:

Reference is made to your recent letter with enclosure from Mrs. Anna Thompson regarding the case of Mr. John W. Louren.

Although Mr. Louren was in the United States during the summer of 1968 we were recently informed by an American consul in London, England that his nonimmigrant visa had been cancelled. Accordingly, he is not in a position to return to this country. Among other requirements, in order to enter the United States he will have to apply to an American consular officer abroad for the issuance of a new visa.

The issuance of visas is solely a function of American consuls who serve abroad under the supervision of the Department of State. Therefore, we have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter and its enclosure to that Department for their attention.

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Farrell
Raymond F. Farrell
Commissioner

Honorable William G. Magnuson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

CC: DIRECTOR, VISA OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE - Copy of letter under acknowledgment with its enclosure attached for your attention.

CC: DISTRICT DIRECTOR, NEW YORK, NEW YORK - Copy of letter under acknowledgment with its enclosure attached for your information. A17 597 321 relates.

1969 MAR -5 AM 9:05

U.S. MAIL SERVICE
N.Y.C. MAIL UNIT



United States Senate
February 20, 1969

Respectfully referred to

Office for Congressional Relations
U. S. Department of Justice
~~Immigration and Naturalization Service~~
Washington, D. C.

CD 703.131

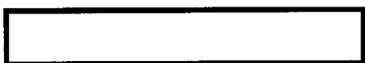
for such consideration as the communication
herein submitted may warrant, and for a report
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of
inclosure.

RECEIVED
FEB 24 9 20 AM '69
CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

By direction of

Warren G. Magnuson
WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
U. S. S.

WGM:Nash
Encl. -



(b)(6)

PAGE WITHHELD PURSUANT TO
(b)(6)

Chief, Visa Section
American Embassy
London, England
Cecil Peterson, Officer in Charge
I&NS, American Consulate General
Frankfurt, Germany
John Winston LENNON

A17 591 321-10mp
February 7, 1969

Please refer to our letter dated December 3, 1968, requesting
a copy of subject's record of conviction.

Any action you might take toward an early compliance, will be
greatly appreciated.

Encl.

cb

3/24/69 Riley is awaiting new record
1st list. Will D. forward when received
In State L.O. ^{Booth} now
not going any place
JMK

1968

SEGMENT 1

45 PAGES

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

RECEIVED

AL7 597 321

TO : Officer in Charge,
Frankfurt, Germany

DEC 31 12 01 PM '68

DATE: December 31, 1968

FROM : T. C. Gibney, Deputy District Director,
New York, N. Y.

SUBJECT: John Winston LENNON; your AL7 597 321 temp of December 19, 1968.

As stated in our letter of December 14, 1968, [redacted] has been posted by this office and it would therefore be appreciated if you would furnish us, for the completion of our file, copies of any records you may obtain for the Chicago office.

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(c)

(b)(7)(e)

CJ

A17 597 321
December 31, 1968

Officer in Charge,
Frankfurt, Germany

T. C. Gibney, Deputy District Director,
New York, N. Y.

John Winston LENNON; your A17 597 321 temp of December 19, 1968.

As stated in our letter of December 14, 1968, [redacted] has been posted by this office and it would therefore be appreciated if you would furnish us, for the completion of our (b)(7)(e) file, copies of any records you may obtain for the Chicago office.

CJ

COMMUNICATIONS

JAN 28 1969

New York, N.Y. 10002