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**Memorandum to William J. Burns,  
Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
and to the attention of J. Edgar Hoover,  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General,  
from Walter C. Foster,  
Special Agent in Charge, Philadelphia,  
September 20, 1921 (and response).**

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September 20, 1921.

Director, Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, DC

**Attention: Mr. J.E. Hoover**

Dear Sir:

Regarding the radical movement throughout the United States, I today had a talk with Agent [J.F.] McDevitt, who is in charge of this work, and he suggested the following:

The radical movement throughout the United States has grown to such proportion that he feels it would be extremely expensive to think of placing confidential informants in every organization that crops up as there are doubtless hundreds of them. In Philadelphia alone, we have more than 28 different organizations affiliated with the COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA - UNIFIED, and with but one paid confidential informant, who only speaks the English language. Their propoganda is carried on in every language and while this informant is able to get some idea as to what is going on in the different language groups it is, of course, physically impossible for him to keep in close touch with them. What tran-

spires, for instance, in the Hungarian groups may be different in many ways from what is going on in the English groups, etc., and his thought for a long time has been to have just 2 confidential informants in each of the big centers, viz: Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Seattle, and New Orleans, and to then find out from the Agents in Charge of these Districts just which language groups are the most active in their District and place the particular language informant in such District. For instance, in Philadelphia our most active are the English and the Russian but always, of course, the Jewish [Yiddish language] people. If we could say concentrate our efforts solely upon these two groups and New York upon the Hungarian and Jewish, Boston the Italian and Irish, Chicago the Lithuanian and Polish, new Orleans the Spanish, etc., it would give the Department at a much smaller expense a good general idea of what is going on. Another thought that struck Agent McDevitt is that these informants might possibly be secured from some of the big private detective agencies, either by men now in their employ that have been upon this work, or men that have been at one time in such agencies employed. These informants would find it much easier and could concentrate upon getting individuals' names and addresses in their respective districts, and the location of their banks, meeting places, etc.

These thoughts have been brought to the atten-

tion of Agent McDevitt more forcibly since the apparent great successes that the organization known as the FRIENDS OF SOVIET RUSSIA is having in interesting all sorts of outside radical and labor organizations, having for their object the ultimate thought of affiliating them with the UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY [*sic.*]. We have ascertained today that this organization is laying plans to get control of an organization in Philadelphia known as the HUNGARIAN SINGING SOCIETY, which is Socialistic, and has been successful in many other organizations.

There has also been formed in Philadelphia this week an organization to be known as the EDUCATIONAL TEACHERS' UNIT of the COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA. Its object is to establish classes in all languages.

Respectfully,

*Walter C. Foster,  
Special Agent in Charge.*

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October 10, 1921.

MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE DIRECTOR.  
[William J. Burns]

I attach hereto a communication from the Special Agent in Charge at Philadelphia, in which certain suggestions are made concerning the operations of informants and upon which you requested comment from me. I have to advise you that the suggestion of Special Agent Foster has been in force and operation for some time, as we made an effort to have an informant in every one of the leading movements of the country, particularly those of a foreign nature.

Respectfully,

*J.E. Hoover.*

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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