Description of document: FBI File on John D Nicolaides

Released date: 15-July-2008

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Date/date range of document: 13-February-1980 – 12-June-1984

Source of document: Federal Bureau of Investigation
Record Information/Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843
Subject: NICOLAIDES, JOHN D  
Request No.: 0988958-000/190

While processing your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, documents from other Government agency(ies) [OGA] concerning your subject were located. The material was referred for consultation.

This consultation is finished and the enclosed material is being released to you with deletions made pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section(s) 552/552a as noted below. See the enclosed form for an explanation of these exemptions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 552</th>
<th>Section 552a</th>
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☑️ You may appeal any FBI denials by writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, United States Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C., 20530-0001, within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Appeal” or “Information Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may easily be identified.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division
Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 22
Page 19 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 1
Page 20 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 2
Page 21 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg.3
Page 22 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 4
Page 23 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 5
Page 24 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 6
Page 25 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 7
Page 26 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 8
Page 27 ~ Duplicate 1116-101121-9, Pg. 9
Page 28 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 10
Page 29 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 11
Page 30 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 12
Page 31 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 13
Page 32 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 14
Page 33 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 15
Page 34 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 16
Page 35 ~ Duplicate 116-101121-9, Pg. 17
Page 38 ~ b1, b5
Page 39 ~ b1
Page 40 ~ b1
Page 41 ~ b1
Page 75 ~ b1

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON
DR. JOHN D. NICOLAIDES

Reference is made to your memorandum dated November 29, 1979.

A review of the files of this Bureau indicated Mr. John D. Nicolaides, 2048 Skylark Lane, San Luis Obispo, California, by letters dated June 14, 1979, and September 10, 1979, requested a copy of a letter of appreciation which Director J. Edgar Hoover sent to him some years ago.

John Dudley Nicolaides was the subject of Bureau file 116-10112, a Department of Energy-applicant type case, which indicated Professor John D. Nicolaides, Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, by a letter dated July 20, 1970, addressed to the Director enclosed a copy of his letter dated July 20, 1970, addressed to Rear Admiral [name redacted] Assistant Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. This letter read as follows:

"As per our recent discussion, please find enclosed correspondence relating to my trip to Israel. Also enclosed is a summary report on the Parafoil, and my recent report on the 'History of Ordnance'.

"You are my [name redacted]. Upon completion of my visit, I will prepare a report for you on my findings.

"I am anxious to assist the DOD in any way that I can."

By letter dated July 20, 1979, the Director responded to Professor Nicolaides' letter indicating his interest in bringing this information to his attention.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

NOTE:

(S)
Memorandum

TO: The Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM: Assistant Attorney General
Philip B. Heymann
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Request for Preliminary Inquiry
Dr. John D. Nicolaides - Atomic Energy Act

By a memorandum dated February 13, 1980, the Bureau advised that the only information it has on Dr. Nicolaides relates to a recent Freedom of Information Act request made by him.

We would appreciate the Bureau conducting a limited inquiry to determine whether there is any basis for further investigation under the Atomic Energy Act.

Title 42, United States Code, Section 2274 makes it a criminal offense for anyone to communicate, transmit, or disclose a "document . . . model . . . or information..."
Because the applicable statute of limitations is a bar unless prosecution is undertaken within ten years after the offense has been committed, the Bureau should conduct this inquiry as expeditiously as possible. The results should be furnished to the Internal Security Section. You will then be advised as to what additional investigation, if any, is needed.
SECRET

3/31/80

To: SAC, Los Angeles (203-296) (Enclosures - 2)

From: Director, FBI (116-101121)

REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

DR. JOHN D. NICOLAIDES - ATOMIC ENERGY ACT

Reference Los Angeles airtel and LHM dated 3/11/80. (U)

On 2/22/80, a letter was forwarded to the subject advising that his letter to the then Director of the FBI, J. E. Hoover, and copy of letter to President Richard M. Nixon had been located and he was advised to submit another request furnishing a notarized signature, date and place of birth to comply with provisions of FOIA and copies of above letter would be forwarded to him. (U)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2
Airtel to SAC, Los Angeles
Re: REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INQUIRY
DR. JOHN D. NICOLAIDES - ATOMIC ENERGY ACT
116-101121

Los Angeles should expeditiously conduct interview and submit results in an FD-302 to CI-2, C Unit, Intelligence Division. (U)

NOTE:
Los Angeles has been requested to interview subject, to determine if pertinent information was classified.
TO:      DIRECTOR, FBI (1-16-101121) 
ATTENTION:  INTD, CI-2B

FROM:   SAC, LOS ANGELES (203-296), (7)  

RE:    CHANGED  

JOHN DUDLEY NICOLAIDES, aka  
John D. Nicolaides  
FCI  

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a  
letterhead memorandum (LHM) entitled, "JOHN D. NICOLAIDES,  
INFORMATION CONCERNING", dated 12/7/79. (U)  

Preliminary inquiry instituted on 12/10/79.  

As the text of the enclosed LHM indicates, Mr.  
Nicolaides advised he is in possession of sensitive national  
security information which he will not discuss with anyone other  
than the Secretary of Defense. Mr. Nicolaides' credentials  
are quite impressive and it would appear logical that the information  
he has to offer may very well be of significance to our national  
defense. As stated in the LHM, Mr. Nicolaides would not confide  
in the interviewing agents and disclose the details of the  

Date  3/11/80

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY  
REASON FOR EXTENSION FC 
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION  

Bureau (Encs.) 3/11/80

Approved:  

MAY 29 1980

FBI/DOJ
information in question. He repeatedly stated he would only disclose the information to the Secretary of Defense since it involved policy making decisions at the highest levels of our government, and since his personal safety might be endangered if the wrong people were cognizant of those facts. 

In view of the above, Los Angeles recommends that FBIHQ, through appropriate liaison, provide sufficient copies of the enclosed LHM directly to the office of the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Harold Brown. (U)

The LHM also indicates that Mr. Nicolaides was anxious to receive a copy of the letter written to him by former Director J. Edgar Hoover on 7/28/70, and a copy of his letter which predicated that response, since his personal copies are missing. Los Angeles recommends FBIHQ determine if copies of these letters exist, and, if so, provide same to Mr. Nicolaides. (U)

For information of the Bureau, Mr. Nicolaides was interviewed on 2/26/80, by Special Agents and of the Santa Maria Resident Agency, Los Angeles Office. (U)

Los Angeles is placing this matter in closed status. (U)
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (116-101121)
ATTENTION: SUPVISOR
                UNIT CHIEF

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (203-296) (7) (RUC)

RE: DR. JOHN D. NICOLAIDES - AEA
    FCI - X

Re Bureau airtel to Los Angeles dated 3/31/80,
Los Angeles airtel and letterhead memorandum (LHM) to the Bureau
dated 3/11/80, and Bureau telephone call to Los Angeles 5/15/80. (U)

Preliminary inquiry was initiated pertaining to the
above subject on 3/31/80, by the Los Angeles Division. (U)

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM
entitled, "DR. JOHN DUDLEY NICOLAIDES" dated as above and
classified "SECRET." (C)

For information to the Bureau, Mr. NICOLAIDES was
interviewed on the evening of 5/15/80, by SA of the Santa Maria Resident Agency, Los Angeles Office. (U)
ADMINISTRATIVE

Regarding paragraph 3 of referenced Bureau airtel to Los Angeles, Mr. NICOLAIDES advised that he has not received any correspondence from FBIHQ dated 2/22/80, and has not submitted another request to the FBI for a copy of former Director of the FBI, JOHN E. HOOVER's, letter to him. (U)

For information to the Bureau, it also appears, as set forth in the attached LHM, that Mr. NICOLAIDES has only discussed information pertaining to the atomic bomb possibly in possession or developed by the Israeli Government in 1970, in his letters to former Director HOOVER and President NIXON, and to the writer. (S)

In view of the fact that there is no further investigation to be conducted by the Los Angeles Division, this case is being placed in an RUC status. (U)
In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DR. JOHN D. NICOLAIDES

On the evening of May 15, 1980, Professor John D. Nicolaides was interviewed at his residence, 2048 Skylark Drive, San Luis Obispo, California, by an Agent of the FBI. (U)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

M.6 - 10/1/92 - (c)
He did supply or ship to the Israeli Government, subsequent to his return to the United States in 1970, a dynamic testing wind tunnel model and some parafoils. He advised that this dynamic testing wind tunnel model is a technique that he personally developed and perfected for use in aeronautical engineering and it is not classified in any manner. It can be used for various tests of various items pertaining to aeronautical engineering and flight dynamics. (U)

Upon his return to the United States in 1970, he personally felt that the Israeli Government had already perfected an atomic bomb. He also felt that the only individuals in the United States Government at that time that he could fully trust were former Director of the FBI, John E. Hoover, and the President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon. He stated that at this time he
DR. JOHN D. NICOLAIDES

addressed letters to both of these individuals relating his thoughts and the possibility that the Israelis had developed an atomic bomb. As a result of these letters, he received a personal letter from former Director Hoover and from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger expressing their thanks for his interest. Other than these letters to former Director Hoover and President Nixon, he has never mentioned to anyone his belief that the Israeli Government had the atomic bomb in 1970. (U) He also mentioned to these three individuals that the Israelis had questioned him concerning the use of his invention, the parafoil, as to whether it could be used as a decoying device flown from a naval warship which would act as a decoy against the Egyptian Styx missile. He did advise the Israelis that this appeared to be a good use of his invention, the parafoil. (U)
Pursuant to our request, the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted a limited inquiry to determine whether there was any basis for further investigation under the Atomic Energy Act. The Bureau disseminated copies of its reports in this inquiry.

Dr. Nicolaides was interviewed by the FBI on May 15, 1980, and he stated that he has never furnished
Dr. Nicolaides has clarified the original information he himself had supplied to your Agency, and there is no indication that he committed a violation of the Atomic Energy Act. (U)

It is our opinion, therefore, no additional investigation is warranted.

Very truly yours,

Philip B. Heymann
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By:

Mark Richard
Deputy Assistant
Attorney General

cc: Federal Bureau of Investigation
I, IN WASHINGiON, D. C., HAVE DECIDED TO INFORM YOU THAT I REQUEST AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE THEFT OF FOUR NATIONAL SECURITY AIRCRAFT HAVING A CLASSIFIED NATURE.

A REVIEW OF THE RECORDS OF THE LOS ANGELES DIVISION REVEAL THAT AN INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT WAS PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED AND LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUMS DATED MARCH 11, 1980 AND MAY 19, 1980, WERE SUBMITTED FOR DISSEMINATION.

ON FEBRUARY 6, 1984, THE SUBJECT CONTACTED AN AGENT OF THE FBI AT THE SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, RESIDENT AGENCY WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN IN PREVIOUS CONTACT.

DATE: 2-10-85
CLASSIFIED BY: J. OSCULLO, TCG/CIO
REASON: IA(C)
DECLASSIFICATION: 2-10-2030

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERE IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.
During the course of the telephonic conversation with the subject, he furnished the following information:

He is no longer employed as a professor at California State Polytechnic University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo, after having taken a leave of absence two years ago. Since that time he has not been on the campus at Cal Poly. He has worked under various contracts for the Department of Defense (DD, and civilian contracts after leaving Cal Poly) and fully retired from Cal Poly last spring.

He advised that he has had numerous written communications and meetings with the President of Cal Poly and the business manager of Cal Poly pertaining to the questioned aircraft, which are highly classified and which have been stolen by Cal Poly from him.

He advised that he has beenwriting a letter to the FBI, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, and the Security Officer of the Naval Sea Systems Command requesting that an investigation be conducted pertaining to four experimental aircraft be referred to by him as "parapoles", which are known to have been taken by him.

He further advised that he had had numerous written communications and meetings with the President of Cal Poly and the Business Manager of Cal Poly pertaining to the questioned aircraft, which are highly classified and which have been stolen by Cal Poly from him.

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He further advised that he had had numerous written communications and meetings with the President of Cal Poly and the Business Manager of Cal Poly pertaining to the questioned aircraft, which are highly classified and which have been stolen by Cal Poly from him.
HE STATES THAT HE FUNDED SOLELY BY HIMSELF ALTHOUGH HE WAS WORKING UNDER CONTRACT FOR THE DOD OFFICE OF EVALUATIONS AND HAS BEEN DOING WORK FOR THE DOD SINCE HE WAS GIVEN THE CONTRACT DURING 1965. HE ADVISED THAT THE PROGRAM WAS CLASSIFIED BY A COLONEL OF THE DOD IN 1965 IN WASHINGTON, D. C. HE ADDED THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE HAS USED TO ASSIST HIM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE AIRCRAFT UNDER THAT CONTRACT HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THEY WERE WORKING ON A DOD CLASSIFIED CONTRACT.

HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM CAL POLY APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AGO WHICH STATED THAT CAL POLY WAS GOING TO KEEP THE QUESTIONED AIRCRAFT AND BELIEVED THAT IT WAS THE PROPERTY OF THE INSTITUTION.

HE STATED THAT THE FOUR AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION ARE ACTUALLY THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PARAFOILS AND ONE OF THEM CONSISTS ONLY OF PARHS WHICH ARE TO BE MADE INTO A PARAFOIL.