DESCRIPTION OF FOLLOWING FILE MATERIAL

NIKOLA TESLA

100-2237  156 pages
REFERENCES  96 pages
252 Total Pages
Main Investigative File

156 pages
Department of Justice,

Attn. Mr. C. Edgar Hoover,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The appended article was printed in the New York Times issue of September 22, 1940 and if based on proven facts, should be of vital importance to the War Department as well as to that of other nations now controlled by insane dictators.

If, as the author states, the teleforce has been perfected by Nikola Tesla, it would be a measure of foresightfulness to insure his constant guarding against his being molested, possibly kidnapped and tortured, by alien enemies for the purpose of seizing the secret of such an invaluable instrument of war and/or defense.

The foregoing is offered just in case the article and its inferences have not been called to your attention.

Very truly yours,
"Death Ray" for Planes

Nikola Tesla, one of the truly great inventors who celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday on July 10, tells the writer that he is ready to divulge to the United States Government the secret of his  "teleforce," with which, he said, airplanes motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles, so that an invisible "Chinese Wall of Defense" would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy air force, no matter how large.

This "teleforce," he said, is based on an entirely new principle of physics: that "no one has ever dreamed about," different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he has received a number of patents. This new type of force, he said, would operate through a beam one-hundred-millionth of a square centimeter in diameter, and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than $2,000,000 and would take about three months to construct.

A dozen such plants, located at strategic points along the coast, according to Mr. Tesla, would be enough to defend the country against all possible aerial attack. The beam would melt any engine, whether Diesel or gasoline-driven, and would also ignite the explosives aboard any bomber. No possible defense against it could be devised, he asserts, as the beam would be all-penetrating.

High Vacuum Eliminated

The beam, he states, involves four new inventions, two of which already have been tested. One of these is a method and apparatus for producing "very intense electrical force:" the second is a method for amplifying this force, and the third is a new method for producing "a tremendous electrical repelling force." This would be the projector, or gun, of the system. The voltage for propelling the beam to its objective, according to the inventor, will attain a potential of 50,000,000 volts.

With this enormous voltage, he said, microscopic electrical particles of matter will be catapulted on their mission of destructive destruction. He has been working on this invention, he added, for many years and has recently made a number of improvements in it.

Mr. Tesla makes one important stipulation. Should the government decide to take up his offer he would go to work at once, but they would have to trust him. He would suffer no interference from experts.

In ordinary times such a condition would very likely interpose an insurmountable obstacle. But times being what they are, and with the nation getting ready to spend billions for national defenses, the same time taking into consideration the reputation of Mr. Tesla as an inventor who always was a few years ahead of his time, the question arises whether it may not be advisable to take Mr. Tesla at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his teleforce plant.

Such a Device "Invaluable"

After all, $2,000,000 would be relatively a very small sum compared with what is at stake. If Mr. Tesla really fulfills his promise the result achieved would be truly staggering. Not only would it save billions now planned for air defense by making the country absolutely impregnable against any air attack, but it would also save many millions in property that would otherwise be surely destroyed no matter how strong the defenses as witness current events in England.

Take, for example, the Panama Canal. No matter how strong the defenses, a suicide squadron of dive bombers, according to some experts, might succeed in getting through and cause such damage that would make the Canal unusable, in which case our Navy might find itself bottled up.

Considering the probabilities in the case even if the chances were 100,000 to 1 against Mr. Tesla the odds would still be largely in favor of taking a chance on spending $2,000,000. In the opinion of the writer, who has known Mr. Tesla for many years and can testify that he still retains full intellectual vigor, the authorities in charge of defending the national defense should at once look into the matter. The sum is insignificant compared with the magnitude of the stakes.
Dear [Name],

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 26, 1940, together with its enclosure.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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THE 2-2-40 BY SP4 J. M. JETT

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 1 1940 ★

P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FBI NYC
DIRECTOR
VEST

UNSUBS -- EQUIPMENT, EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA CEASED.

ESPIONGC - M.

URET UNDER ABOVE HEADING TO THE BUREAU FROM THIS OFFICE DATED JAN NINE LAST. INQUIRY DEVELOPS THAT TESLA DIED JAN EIGHT, RATHER THAN THURSDAY, JAN SEVEN, AS STATED IN REFERENCE TELTYPE. ON THE NIGHT OF JAN EIGHT, SAVAK KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, AND KENNETH SWEEZER VISITED TESLA'S HOTEL WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF SHAW WALKER CO. IN ORDER TO OPEN THE SAFE IN THE ROOM OF TESLA.

KOSANOVICH LATER REPORTED TO WALTER GORSUCH, OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN, NYC, THAT WE WENT INTO THE ROOM IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR A WILL OF TESLA. KOSANOVICH AND THE OTHERS MADE THE SEARCH OF THE SAFE IN THE PRESENCE OF ASST MANAGERS OF HOTEL NEW YORKER AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN CONSULATE, IDENTITIES OF LATTER NOT YET KNOWN. AFTER THE SAFE WAS OPENED, SWEEZER, TOOK FROM THE SAFE A BOOK CONTAINING TESTIMONIALS SENT TO TESLA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVENTY FIFTH BIRTHDAY. THIS BOOK WAS ARRANGED FOR TESLA BY SWEEZER.

KOSANOVICH TOOK FROM THE ROOM THREE PICTURES OF TESLA, TWO BEING ENLARGED NEWSPAPER PICTURES. ACCORDING TO MANAGERS OF HOTEL AND KOSANOVICH HIMSELF, NOTHING ELSE WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROOM OR SAFE. THE SAFE WAS THEN CLOSED UNDER A NEW COMBINATION, WHICH COMBINATION IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF KOSANOVICH. ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JAN NINE, GORSUCH AND FITZGERALD OF ALIEN PROPERTY CONTROL WENT TO HOTEL AND SEIZED ALL THE PROPERTY OF TESLA, CONSISTING OF ABOUT TWO TRUCKLOADS OF MATERIAL, SEALED ALL ARTICLES AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO THE MANHATTAN STORAGE AND WAREHOUSE CO., NY, WHERE THEY ARE NOW LOCATED AT THAT TIME THERE WERE ALSO IN THIS WAREHOUSE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY BARRELS AND BUNDLES BELONGING TO TESLA WHICH HAD BEEN THERE SINCE ABOUT NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR. THESE HAVE ALSO BEEN SEALED AND ARE NOW UNDER ORDERS OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN. IN VIEW OF FACT TESLA IS A US NATURALIZED CITIZEN, ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN FEELS THAT ITS JURISDICTION OVER PROPERTY IS DOUBTFUL BUT FEELS THAT NO OTHER AGENCY WILL BE ABLE TO GET ACCESS TO THIS PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS.

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Redactions on this page are not FOIA deletions
AFTER THAT TIME IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE APPOINTED FOR THE PROPERTY WHO MAY TAKE THE PROPERTY INTO HIS CUSTODY. TESLA ALSO HAD SOME PROPERTY, Allegedly ALLEGED BY INFORMANT FITZGERALD IN THIS CASE, TO BE A WORKING MODEL OF AN INVENTION IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL IN NY. INQUIRY SHOWS THAT THIS WAS PLACED HERE BY TESLA IN NINETEEN THIRTY TWO AS SECURITY FOR FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS OWED HOTEL. THIS BILL IS STILL OWED AND HOTEL APPEARS UNWILLING TO RELEASE THIS PROPERTY TO ANYONE AT LEAST UNTIL Debt IS PAID, BUT THIS OFFICE WILL BE ADVISED IF ANYONE ATTEMPTS TO PAY BILL AND OBTAIN PROPERTY. CONCERNING TESLA HOTEL MANAGERS REPORT HE WAS VERY ECCENTRIC IF NOT MENTALLY DERANGED DURING PAST TEN YEARS AND IT IS DOUBTFUL IF HE HAS CREATED ANYTHING OF VALUE DURING THAT TIME, ALTHOUGH TO THAT HE PROBABLY WAS A VERY BRILLIANT INVENTOR. THEREFORE, ANY NOTES OF VALUE WERE PROBABLY THOSE MADE PRIOR TO THAT TIME. KOSANOVICH IS A NEPHEW OF TESLA WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FORMERLY QUOTE YUGOSLAV MINISTER OF STATE UNQUOTE AND NOW QUOTE President OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTING YUGOSLOVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND GREECE, UNQUOTE. SWEZY IS A WRITER FOR POPULAR MECHANICS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS WHO IS DESIRIOUS OF PUBLISHING A BIOGRAPHY OF TESLA AND THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF HIS NOTES FOR THIS WORK. GLASS IS EMPLOYED BY RCA AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE STORAGE ROOM FOR TESLAS EFFECTS IN ORDER TO USE THEM IN WRITING A BIOGRAPHY. TESLA AT ONE TIME REPORTED TO BE WORKING ON EXPERIMENTS FOR YUGOSLAVIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. IT IS DESIGNED THAT BUREAU ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER IT IS INTERESTED FURTHER IN THIS PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF TAKING CONTROL OF IT. SUGGEST THAT, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE NOTES AND OTHER MATERIAL WOULD BE HIGHLY TECHNICAL IN CHARACTER AND FOR THAT REASON COULD NOT BE REVIEWED EXCEPT BY A TRAINED PERSON THE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

FOXWORTH
END NYC 52 WHS
HOLD WA 8R 2 RSG

REDACIONS ON THIS PAGE ARE NOT
DIRECTOR

COAT

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS. [REDACTED] EXPERIMENTS AND TESLA, DECEASED. ESPIONAGE - M. NIKOLA TESLA, ONE OF THE LEADING SCIENTISTS IN THE ELECTRICAL FIELD, DIED SEVENTEEN FORTY THREE AT THE HOTEL NEW YORKER, NEW YORK LIFETIME, HE CONDUCTED MANY EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND WAVELENGTHS THAT LEAD TO THE DEATH RAY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED TO ONE SIX FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, THE NOTES AND EXPERIMENTS AND FORMULAS TOGETHER WITH DESIGNS OF THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND WAVELENGTHS THAT LEAD TO THE DEATH RAY ARE AMONG TESLA'S PERSONAL EFFECTS, AND SPANDEL WANTED TO PRESERVE THEM OR TO KEEP THEM FROM FALLING INTO THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF THE WAR OF THE UNDISCOVERED. SPANDEL, A DISTANT RELATIVE OF TESLA, NAMED KOSANOVICH, WHO WAS INTENSELY DISLIKED BY TESLA, IS TAKING STEPS TO SEIZE POSSESSION OF THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND PLANS. SPANDEL BELIEVED THAT THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT KOSANOVICH WILL MAKE THIS MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO THE ENEMY. SPANDEL ADVISED TWO HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS MR. MORKIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, CONCERNING THE ABOVE. SPANDEL WAS ALSO INTERNEE WITH DR. LOZADO, ONE OF THE ADVISORS TO VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND LOZADO TOLD SPANDEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECTS OF TESLA AND REQUESTED SPANDEL TO LOSE NO TIME IN DOING ALL HE COULD TO PRESERVE THEM. BLOOMFIELD, AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WHO HAD BEEN QUITE CLOSE TO TESLA DURING HIS LIFE, ADVISED THE NEW YORK OFFICE THAT ON JANUARY SEVENTH, THIRTEEN FORTY THREE, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE MUSEUM AND LABORATORY FOR RCA, AND RICHARD SWEENEY OF ONE SIX THREE MILTON STREET, BROOKLYN, NY, WENT TO TESLA ROOMS IN THE NEW YORKER, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A LOCKSMITH BROKE INTO A SAFE WHICH TESLA HAD IN HIS ROOMS IN WHICH HE KEPT SOME OF HIS VALUABLE PAPERS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT ELECTRICAL FORMULAE, DESIGNS, ET CETERA. WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, TESLA TOLD FITZGERALDS THAT HIS EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND PERFECTED.

Best Copy Available
FITZGERALD ALSO KNOWS THAT TESLA HAS CONCEIVED AND COMPLETED A REVOLUTIONARY TYPE OF TORPEDO WHICH IS NOT PRESENTLY IN USE BY ANY OF THE NATIONS. IT IS FITZGERALD'S BELIEF THAT THIS DESIGN HAS NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ANY NATION UP TO THE PRESENT TIME. FROM STATEMENTS MADE TO FITZGERALD BY TESLA, HE KNOWS THAT THE COMPLETE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND EXPLANATION OF THE BASIC THEORIES OF THESE THINGS HAVE SOME PLACE IN THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF TESLA. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT THERE IS A WORKING MODEL OF TESLAS WHICH COST MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BUILD IN A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX BELONGING TO TESLA IN THE GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL, AND FITZGERALD BELIEVES THIS MODEL HAS TO DO WITH THE SO-CALLED DEATH RAY OR THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT. TESLA HAS ALSO TOLD FITZGERALD IN CONVERSATIONS THAT HE HAS SOME EIGHTY TRUNKS INDISTINCTLY LABLES CONTAINING TRANSCRIPTS AND PLANS HAVING TO DO WITH EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED BY HIM. EBERHARD IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHAT, IF ANYTHING, SHOULD BE TAKEN CONCERNING THIS MATTER BY THE NEW YORK FIELD OFFICE.

CORRECTION—THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TELETYPE THE NAME THAT SHOULD APPEAR IS FITZGERALD NOT FITZGERALD AS IT SOMETIMES IS SPILLED

HOLD

NOT FOIA REDUCTIONS

Best Copy Available
Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outstanding electrical engineers, died at his residence in New York City, on January 7, 1943. In the course of his work, he conducted many experiments with respect to the transmission and reception by means of radio and what is commonly called the Death Ray, which is used with respect to the wireless transmission of electrical energy. It is reported to have been completed and perfected, and Tesla had also carried out a revolutionary type of torpedo which is not in use by any country at the present time. The specifications, explanations of the basic idea, and working models of Tesla's scientific endeavors are reported to be in the hands of the Axis powers. 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 is also reported to the New York Office by A. M. Spangel and Boyd 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 Spangel 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 Lueyy 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 invaluable papers, including important electrical formulae, designs, etc.
Memorandum for the Director

The New York Office was instructed to discuss the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the possibility of taking Kosanovich into custody on a burglary charge and obtaining the various papers which Kosanovich is reported to have taken from Tesla. 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 respecting to Tesla's inventions. The New York Office was also instructed to the Surrogate Court in order that steps could be placed against his hotel and any other points, in particular, the safe and boxes that he may have in order that no one may enter them without a 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,

[Signature]

D. L. Ladd

F. M. C. Smith is handling this with a view to protect the custodian so that no papers are to be no need for me to miss around it.

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

January 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

On Friday, January 8th, Mr. L. M. C. Smith called me in connection with the death of Nikola Tesla. He advised me that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla, who had died on January 7th. He understood that the War Department was interested in this matter and that apparently the Alien Property Custodian's office was taking some action. He desired to know whether the Bureau would take some steps to refrain relatives of Tesla from taking the contents of his trunks and whether the Bureau would seize possession of the trunks. Mr. Smith indicated that he was talking to the Alien Property Custodian along the same lines. I told him that in view of the fact he was going to handle the matter with the Alien Property Custodian's office, there did not appear to be any action which the Bureau could or should take.
This information would help me in a better presentation of this paper and consequent a far greater appreciation of his work in the field of science.

I know that a part of experiments and theory have a secret classification and I do not expect any of it.

I am interested in "Current Transmission" as the basis of my thesis for graduation. If it is possible to obtain this information, I would be very grateful.

Yours very truly,
April 17, 1950

SAC, New York

Director, FBI

Rental dated April 3 last.

On April 7, 1950 agents of this Office interviewed Mr. J.V. POTIS, Vice President of the Manhattan Warehouse and Storage Company, 32nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City, and at that time Mr. POTIS advised that the rules of his firm required that all persons gaining access to goods stored by Manhattan first had to fill out an appropriate form setting forth their names, date of visit, and reason for requesting access to the goods.

In a review of the files pertaining to the storage of the effects of NIKOLA TESLA, Mr. POTIS revealed that only one such visit had been made by persons outside of the management of Manhattan Storage itself. This one occasion took place on January 26 and 27, 1943, at which time representatives of the Alien Property Custodian made a thorough review of the entire effects of the TESLA estate.

The TESLA effects are stored in rooms 5J and 5L of Manhattan Storage’s warehouse at 32nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City. Mr. HICHOL HING, who stated he had been Floor Supervisor for approximately 10 years on the floor in question, stated that he could recall only the one occasion in early 1943 when an examination was made of the TESLA effects. He stated that at that time numerous photographs were taken by the examiners. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of some of the papers of the deceased scientist. Mr. HING added that several of the group making the examination wore U.S. Navy uniforms, and during the two days required to complete the examination the civilian assistants in the group were identified to him only as "FEDERAL AUTHORITIES". According to Mr. HING, no other instance of microfilming of the records of the TESLA estate has taken place since that time.

It should be noted that the Bureau was informed of the examination mentioned above by New York letter (with attachments) dated October 17, 1945, entitled UNKNOWN SUBJECT; BABA KOBOCH; Experiments & Research of NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased), Esplanade-M.
Letter to Director, FBI
NY 105-1391

MR. POTTS stated that no inquiry had been received by Manhattan from SAVA N. DOSANOVICH, nor had Manhattan informed him, in any way, that an examination of the TESLA effects had been made by anyone. In fact, added MR. POTTS, the only correspondence relating to the TESLA estate has been in the form of bills for storage.

MR. POTTS stated that any personal inquiries regarding the estate would of necessity be directed to him, and to date no such inquiries have been made.

Interviewing agents explained to MR. POTTS that the examination made, as mentioned above, was not instigated by the Bureau, nor had the Bureau taken part in that examination.

Unless advised to the contrary, this investigation is being placed in a closed status, and no further investigative action is contemplated by this office. CLOSED.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Records
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

In a manner of introduction, I wish to state that I am working toward a degree in Electrical Engineering at the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota.

For several years, I have been engaged in a study of extensive compass and detail concerning the researches and writings of the late, world renowned scientist, Dr. Nikola Tesla. At considerable expense, I have acquired an extensive collection of materials relating to Dr. Tesla and his works which include:

1) Personal letters written by Tesla to his close friend.

2) Numerous periodicals, some of which are to be found in only a few libraries throughout the United States.

3) A few rare books which have now become "collector's items".

4) A collection of issued patents.

Although the items listed are considerable in number, the specific information desired is lacking.

As I understand it, because of the nature of Dr. Tesla's role in scientific developments, all research papers, patent applications, etc., were secured by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the time of Dr. Tesla's death in January of 1943.

The purpose of this seizure, as described in numerous articles, was to determine whether these papers contained suggestions leading toward advancements in the field of science.
Now it seems that sufficient time has elapsed for an investigation of this kind. If Dr. Tesla's Estate has been released by the department in charge, any records that can be made available for examination will be welcomed.

A letter from Harold I. Baynton, Assistant Attorney General, Director, Office of Alien Property, informed me that the Library of Congress listed certain works, writings and research studies prepared by the late Dr. Tesla. However, a letter addressed to the Library failed to bring results as the Library "has no file on the researches of Tesla".

A similar result was obtained from the Bureau of Naval Research and the Department of Commerce.

I am especially interested in the research work in which Tesla was engaged in his later years. There are various unpublished works, such as a 10-page typewritten statement presented in 1937 at a meeting of several well-known editors outlining his discoveries and giving a resume of his work in the fields of gravity and cosmic ray research, etc. Also, Tesla prepared various papers, one of which was in effort to secure the Pierre Gutzman Prize from the Institute of France. My inquiry is in effort to determine whether any of these documents, as well as others, are at this time available.

I will greatly appreciate any information in regard to any records which you may have.

Very truly yours,
August 26, 1952

With reference to your letter of August 16, 1952, our files disclose that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody at the time of his death by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. Consequently, you may wish to communicate further with that agency, which may be addressed as follows: (65-47953)

Assistant Attorney General
Rowland F. Kirks
Director, Office of Alien Property
United States Department of Justice
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (with copy of Rowland F. Kirks, Director, Office of Alien Property, United States Department of Justice, 101 Indiana Avenue, N. W., Washington 25, D. C.)

NOTE: No reference Bureau files on correspondent in Minnesota. 8-22-52...per
Office Memorandum  •  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO:     [Handwritten: MR. A. H. BEDNACZ]
FROM:  [Handwritten: M. L. L. LAUGHLIN]

DATE: May 5, 1933

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased) INFORMATION CONCERNING

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called on the afternoon of May 4, 1933.

stated that he had been reading a book entitled, "The Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" by John J. O'Neill, whom [Handwritten: described as a science writer for a New York newspaper (publisher - Ives Washburn).] noted in this book that Bureau Agents went to Tesla's room following his death on January 7, 1943, opened his safe, examined his papers, and took over his personal files. [Handwritten: said this appeared on page 277.][Handwritten: stated that Tesla is the father of modern power engineering, being responsible for the invention of the A.C. generator, motor transmission, and other electrical engineering feats. He inquired (1) if the papers and works of Tesla were in the possession of the Bureau, and (2) if so, were they available for review in view of their scientific importance.

I told [Handwritten: that the statement concerning the Bureau's taking Tesla's files did not seem very logical but that I would check on the matter.]

The Bureau's files reflect that shortly after the death of Tesla in his hotel room in New York City on January 7, 1943, Savva Kosanovich, a distant relative, and other individuals entered his room and opened the safe, examining certain materials which he possessed. On January 8, 1943, Mr. L. L. C. Smith of the Department advised Mr. Tamm that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla and apparently the Office of Alien Property Custodian was taking some action regarding these effects. Since the matter was being handled by the Office of Alien Property Custodian, the Bureau did not make any inquiries into this situation. (65-47333-6)

It is noted also that the Bureau received a letter dated April 16, 1948, from [Handwritten: explaining that he was studying electrical engineering at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and]

65-447-52

INDEXED  •  MAY 6, 1948

[Handwritten: 1 Mr. Nichols]
was interested in the life and works of Tesla. It stated
that he understood at the time of Tesla's death the Bureau
took his manuscripts and experiment data for national security.
The Bureau on April 22, 1946, advised [redacted] that the effects of
Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property and not by the
FBI. (65-47365-16)

I called [redacted] this morning and told him that it was
the office of Alien Property and not the FBI which took over the
effects of Tesla following his death. Accordingly, I suggested
that [redacted] might wish to communicate with the office of
Alien Property for further information on this matter.

The book "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla"
is not in the Bureau Library. A copy is being obtained from
the Library of Congress. It will be examined to determine
specifically the reference made to the Bureau's taking these
papers. At that time a determination can be made as to what
further action should be taken.

ADDEYDZ: LLL:mer 5-14-53

Page 277 of the "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla,"
describing Tesla's death, contains the following statement:
"Operatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation came and opened
the safe in his room and took the papers it contained, to examine
them for a reported important secret invention of possible use
in the war."

Since this work was published in 1944, it is not felt
that any particular purpose would be served by raising an objection
with the publishers at this time. [redacted] the individual who raised
the question, has been set straight and, therefore, no further
action is being taken.
Office Memorandum

TO: Director, F.B.I.

FROM: R.C., New York (6/12)

SUBJECT: INFORMATION

Mr. George H. Scherr, Jr., 149 Swiss Road, Rochelle, New York, advised that he received two letters from Leland T. Anderson, 127 Seymour Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota, photostats copies of which are being furnished the Bureau and Minneapolis.

Mr. Scherr stated that he was an associate with Nikola Tesla in 1914 and that for many years his father had been Dr. Tesla's private secretary. Mr. Scherr said that he never heard of Leland T. Anderson, but he did ever hear of any of the names mentioned in Anderson's letters.

Mr. Scherr stated that he has quite a lot of Tesla's writings in his possession and he didn't know whether or not they could be of value to a foreign government.

No further action is being taken by this Office.

Encs. (27)
1. Minneapolis (Encs.)

Exp. Proc.

Memo: New York

3-10-54

RECORDED: 15

INDEXED: 15

024
February 3, 1954

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.
143 Sharon Road
Westchester, New York

Dear Mr. Scherff:

re: The life and work of Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Recently, I have founded an organization in name and honor of Dr. Tesla in cooperation with several people who were intimately associated with Tesla during his lifetime, and with others who are interested in Dr. Tesla and his achievements from a scientific and historical standpoint. (See enclosed brochure.) I have had some difficulty locating a few of Tesla's associates, and the name of George Scherff is among them. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that you, Mr. Scherff, are the person I seek as having been associated with Tesla.

I have personally studied the works of Tesla for a number of years, being particularly interested in elaborating upon his researches regarding high-tension radiant beams. Through some travel and other efforts, I have been fortunate to locate many original collections of Tesla's correspondence and manuscripts, and in a few cases obtained a number of interesting items.

I was in New York a short time ago on business, and while there I visited Mr. Kenneth X. Sweezey. He intends to undertake some significant work on behalf of Tesla in the near future, and since he knew Tesla for so many years during his later life, it will be handled with great understanding.

I hope that you may have some interest in the work which I have initiated on behalf of Dr. Tesla. There are many matters that I wish to discuss with you, provided of course, that you are the Mr. Scherff related to the Tesla story. I would be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and will send you all publications of the organization if you wish to receive them.

Very truly yours,

Leland J. Anderson
To Those Who Are Interested in the Life and Work of
Dr. NIKOLA TESLA

Following the death of Dr. Nikola Tesla on the 7th of January, 1943, Mr. John J. O'Neill, former Science Editor of the New York Herald Tribune, presented the biography

PHOTOCOM SERIES
The Life of Nikola Tesla

- a memorable tribute to one of the most outstanding figures in the entire field of electrical science. Many reading this biography became aware of Nikola Tesla for the first time despite his tremendous achievements with which he has won worldwide acclaim in scientific circles. Even those closely associated with the world of science and engineering discovered a remarkable story not generally known of the brilliant mind Tesla whose sensitive personality and isolation kept his face in a shadow.

The TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization is being established in the United States in name and honor of the Nikola Tesla by those sharing a mutual interest in his life and work. The organization has as its objective the propagation of the truths about Nikola Tesla: his full recognition be made for his pioneering research work on the effects of currents of high frequency and wave potentials, and for his achievements in the realms of radio waves, wireless transmission and telecommunication. It would be the duty of the organization to be all in its power that the name of Tesla win in the eyes of the nation the fame deserving of a true great American for his contributions to science, industry, and to this country.

A journal of the TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization will be begun in the month of November, 1943. In addition to items of present and historical interest related to Tesla, the journal will include:

1) A formal roster of officers and list of members of the organization and their activities.

2) An opportunity to members to exchange views of the organization through the medium of the journal.

3) A comprehensive bibliography and complete list of available literature concerning Tesla, which will include a cataloging of the various collections of Teslaiana not in widely known. Such a list will be of particular importance to scholars in the research field.

4) A presentation of Tesla's published writings and analysis of Tesla's technical papers at times as they become available.

The Journal of the TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization will be forthcoming at intervals of 12 - 2 months. Subscription rate is $1.00 for 10 issues. Membership in the TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization is concurrent with subscription to the Journal.
February 12, 1933

Dear Mr. Scharff,

It was so very rewarding to receive your reply concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla... I have initiated an undertaking on behalf of Tesla because I feel that in all right and justice something should be done to perpetuate the name of Tesla and see to it that his name becomes a part of the heritage of this nation. A great task perhaps, but as time goes on I believe the name of Tesla will become more significant in scientific developments. I hope that you may have an interest in the organization which I have proposed and established, and I will be honored to have you as a member. The organization is presently set up on the basis of those having a vital interest in Tesla, with a free exchange of information between members. The first two issues of the journal of the organization are being sent to you under separate cover, and should reach you in a day or two.

Some other members which may be of interest to you are: Marius Arbus, Dorothy Serritt, Kenneth Sweeney and W. W. Alwine. The recent deaths of John O'Neill and Edwin Armstrong were very unexpected, and it is with a great sadness that I received the news and loss of these two members.

Do you know if Mr. Lowenstein and a daughter? The reason I ask is that a woman visited Mr. O'Neill before his death and told him that she inherited a great amount of Teslaiana from her father - whom I presume to be Mr. Lowenstein. This woman was afraid of discussing the information by reason of her mistaken notion and fear that she would be raided by the army. You see Mr. O'Neill related to me that a few army officials visited his home with insistent requests for information. Of course, all this sort of government interest was aroused by Tesla's "death-ray" rumors, played up by enterprising journalists. Well, the result of all this is that she refused to give Mr. O'Neill her married name - only that she married a German prince no less, and moved to some old-world city. If this woman has the amount of material that Mr. O'Neill indicated, it would certainly be important to locate her.

I believe that one of the valuable efforts of the Tesla organization would be to catalog every piece of information concerning Tesla. I have made a beginning effort along this line, and I hope that before too long all collections of Teslaiana may be located, cataloged, and reproduced for fear of eventual loss. Through Mary A. Benjamin (of W. A. Benjamin Autographs in New York) I have obtained a number of significant items of correspondence between Tesla and Robert U. Johnson. The entire collection of correspondence with Mr. Johnson numbers in excess of 70 pieces. I share this collection with Mrs.
I am sometimes on Long Island. The period of this correspondence spans from 1944-1954. Mrs. McChesney has another series of correspondence between 50 and 51 with Sylvester Vierack which is very interesting in that it is from a period later in Tesla's life. If you wish to pursue any difficulties or issues from these collections I will be happy to assist you.

I am interested to learn whether you have collected any mementos, correspondence, etc., of Tesla. For a long while I have been trying to locate a copy of the brochure which Tesla issued the first week of January, 1944. It came in a large square envelope bearing a large red wax seal with the initials "B.T." stamped thereon. Quite a number of these were distributed throughout New York and elsewhere to Tesla enterprises in an effort to secure financial backing for the tower and power plant erected at Wardenclyffe, Long Island. You no doubt know of the brochure of which I speak. I thought it would be interesting to reproduce this brochure and distribute it among the members of the Tesla Organization as a memento. Although I have written and inquired about this brochure extensively, I have not been able to locate a copy. Did you ever have one?

I have notes that in 1998 (the Tesla Centenarian) some significant observance may be planned here in the United States in honor of Tesla. The Tesla Museum in Yugoslavia has obtained the Tesla manuscripts, which amounts to 7,000 pages of apparatus, writings, etc. It is the intention (so stated) of the Museum to publish the entire writings of Tesla, including those in the inheritance, on the Tesla Centenarian. I don't know what sort of political-poster propaganda might be injected in this observance, but it occurred to me that it may be appropriate to announce an advanced publication in this country of the Tesla letter works. Unfortunately, there is not much to be done in this country, unless a state could be secured in this country, because so many very important items in the estate were made to the state of Ohio or a development center in Ohio. If these manuscripts could be located there, it would be much material for a celebration. However, in working with the Library of Congress in the preparation of a copy of the A, these manuscripts have occupied the most extensive search, thus far.

Knowing that you may be interested in the efforts of the Tesla Association on behalf of Tesla and wish to associate yourself with it, I write,

Yours faithfully,

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
An Announcement

To members of the Tesla INTERNATIONAL organization and those interested in the works of
Dr. Nikola Tesla

March 15, 1934

'The Inventions and Writings of Nikola Tesla' by
Dr. Willard G. Martin

It is with great pleasure that the Tesla INTERNATIONAL organization announces the reprinting
of this important and significant work in the field of electrical literature.

The book has been in great demand for some time, and the Tesla INTERNATIONAL
organization is therefore pleased to make this reprint available. Only a limited number
will be reprinted when this offer is repeated when the demand for the book is
again evident.

Cost of the book is $3.00. Orders should be sent to the Tesla INTERNATIONAL
organization at the following address: Tesla INTERNATIONAL, Inc., 34 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y.

30
SAC, New York

Director, FBI
100-2237-4X1

March 10, 1954

ERLAND L. ANDERSON
MISCELLANEOUS; INTERNAL SECURITY - YU

Attn: Agent

RECEIVED

[Handwritten note: Not an F 01A Reduction]

[Handwritten note: Aerial]

[Handwritten note: All information contained herein is unclassified]

[Handwritten note: Date 2-2-62 by L. Graff]
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.  

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Back in 1943, the local Alien Property Custodian searched through the belongings of the late electrical inventor, Nikola Tesla, stored in the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in New York City. Tesla had been a naturalized American for more than fifty years, so I believe that the search was made on the grounds that the property was to be sent to Yugoslavia, through Tesla's nephew and heir, Mr. Sava Kosanović (Mr. Kosanović had been Minister of State under the King's government, later became Ambassador to the United States from the present government, and is now a Minister serving in Belgrade).

According to the attorney who handled the Tesla estate, Mr. Philip Wittenberg, the Alien Property Custodian assured him that nothing had been held. I have a letter from the Office of Alien Property, dated March 15, 1955, which confirms this statement.

In gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birthday next year—which will be participated in by leading scientific and engineering societies, museums, and universities—I have just discovered, however, that Tesla's solid gold Edison Medal somehow vanished during that search.

As a friend who had known Tesla well during his last twenty years, I was with Mr. Kosanović in Tesla's room in the Hotel New Yorker on the day he died. A safe expert was called in to unlock Tesla's safe. Among its contents were several honorary degrees, a volume of greetings which I had gathered for him on his seventy-fifth birthday, a bunch of keys, and the Edison Medal. We kept out the book of greetings (I mentioned this at the time to the assistant manager of the hotel and later to a Mr. Gorsuch of the Alien Property Custodian's office), but everything else, including the medal and the keys, was replaced and the safe was locked.

Except when it was inspected by the Alien Property Custodian, the safe was never reopened until it
arrived in Belgrade (where Tesla's property was to be installed in a special Tesla Museum) and was there opened by Mr. Kosanović. According to his former secretary, both the bunch of keys and the medal were missing. The keys were later found in a tin box outside the safe; the medal was never found.

I learned of the disappearance of the medal only by accident. Mr. Kosanović had asked his former secretary to get permission from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (who gave Tesla the Medal) to have it duplicated. This was given, but the cost, it turned out, would be about four hundred dollars. In the meantime, the Tesla Museum, in Yugoslavia, is quietly trying to raise the money to pay for it.

The irony of this situation is more disturbing than the money involved. By giving us a system which made electric power universally available, Tesla—probably more than any other one man—helped put America on top of the world. At the time he died, his gold Edison Medal was the only material evidence left of this country's appreciation. That this last token should have disappeared—so to have to be replaced by his materially poor countrymen overseas for whom he had done nothing—seems a tragic demerit.

John O'Neill, in his biography of Tesla, states that the FBI broke into Tesla's safe on the day he died, and an article in the current (June) Coronet repeats this. I know this isn't true. I did hear, however, that the FBI somehow lent a hand to the Alien Property Custodian during the latter's search in the warehouse.

If that is so, I thought that perhaps some of your men might remember the conditions under which the search was made and therefore might have a suggestion as to what could have happened to the medal. After this long time, I have no hope that the medal can actually be restored, and I am already trying to interest Americans in making a replacement. But future biographers might be spared a lot of wild guesses and wrong blaming if some hint could be obtained as to whether the original got lost, strayed, or stolen—and who might have been responsible.

With best regards and sincere appreciation for any help you can give,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Swezey

P.S.: I am enclosing an editorial from last month's POWER magazine which outlines Tesla's contribution to the electric power industry.
Strange Genius

ASK ANY GROUP of power men to name those who laid the foundation for today’s electrical generation and distribution. You’ll wind up with an impressive list—Edison, Brush, Thomson, Westinghouse, many others. But there is almost sure to be a significant omission.

Yet this forgotten man conceived the polyphase ac motor—still basic—and devised a suitable system of generation and distribution for applying it. To grasp the magnitude of this contribution, we must turn back to the 1880’s when the electrical era was being born, and the “battle of the systems” held sway.

Arc lights and motors were being operated on constant-current series systems. Edison’s Pearl Street generating station had opened in 1882, supplying incandescent lamps and, later, dc motors on a constant-potential system. Under the leadership of Westinghouse and Stanley, the advantages of ac distribution were demonstrated. But there was no successful ac motor.

In May, 1888, a young Yugo-Slav engineer, but four years in the United States, read a paper before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In it he described a new ac system. Its heart was the induction motor with its basic and beautiful concept of the rotating magnetic field. The man was Nikola Tesla, the system he described was destined to sweep the field.

With characteristic vision, George Westinghouse realized the fundamental importance of the polyphase ac system and acquired the basic patents. Its first impact on the general public was at the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893. There a 2-phase generator supplied motors and lamps, and, through rotary converters and motor-generators, a variety of dc equipment.

But it remained for the Niagara Falls power project to demonstrate in the most dramatic way possible that polyphase ac was the system of the future. Since 1886 when a charter to develop its power had been granted, the eyes of the world had been on Niagara. An international commission, headed by Lord Kelvin, had reviewed 17 proposals, found none acceptable. Later, just five years after Tesla’s AIEE paper, it was officially decided to use the polyphase system.

In August, 1895, Niagara power was delivered to the first industrial customer and in 1896 ac transmission to Buffalo, 22 miles away, was begun. By that time, the steam turbine had been introduced in America and the modern age of electric power had truly opened.

For Nikola Tesla, these far-reaching inventions were but a beginning. Still to come was, brilliant work in high frequencies, thinking basic to much of today’s radio art. Yet by the time of his death in 1943, both he and his work had begun to slip into obscurity. Why?

A man of flashing insights and enormous brilliance, Tesla was largely indifferent to the development of his ideas. This he left to others while he followed the lure of new challenges. In later years, his projects became more grandiose, his ways more mysterious, his pronouncements more Olympian. And working alone, as he did, he formed none of the institutional ties that help to perpetuate a record of accomplishment.

Next year—July 10, 1956—will be the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla’s birth. It would be fitting for our engineering societies to commemorate this occasion, to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better.

(REPRINTED BY PERMISSION)
RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

Largely thru a young American engineer’s efforts, the world today is re-scanning the record and achievements of our inventive genius, Nikola Tesla. Of late, even the big-time magazines have devoted space to the amazing career and fascinating character of the pioneering electrical wizard.

The man behind this belated recognition for the one-time Serbian immigrant boy who made millions but died almost a pauper is Leland Anderson, head of the Tesla Society, which has headquarters at the University of Minnesota.

Thru travels, correspondence and detailed research, Mr. Anderson has dug up many friends of the late genius and induced them to join in his noble work. A good many of these are American-Serbian. They serve Mr. Anderson and he serves them, with information issued thru his TESLIAN publication. This is, at present, a mimeographed publication issued monthly which casts new light on the known life and record of the late Dr. Tesla.

The latest issue (March-June) informs of progress plans to honor Dr. Tesla even more. It also presents an account of a fascinating editorial, “Strange Genius”, by the POWER magazine of the powerful McGraw-Hill publishing line. This editorial traces the introduction of Dr. Tesla’s polyphase system described by Mr. Anderson, as the “most tremendous event in all engineering history.”

Editorialist Louis Bowler, according to the TESLIAN, answers the perplexing question why, in view of Tesla’s important discoveries, he fell short of the comparative popularity won by Edison and Bell. Then in closing, he suggests: “It would be fitting for our engineering societies, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla’s birth (July 10, 1956), to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better.”

This appears to be just what Mr. Anderson was waiting for. For now, in the same issue of his TESLIAN, he has prepared a form to petition Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield to issue a Tesla commemorative stamp next year.
NIKOLA TESLA

Nikola Tesla, a native of Yugoslavia, was a famous electrical inventor who died in New York City in 1943 where he had lived for many years. In attached letter to Bureau dated 6-25-55 Kenneth W. Swezey, Brooklyn, New York, advises he is gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birth anniversary in 1956. Swezey relates that Tesla's safe was opened by friends after his death and the contents were then replaced and then impounded by the United States Alien Property Custodian. Later the safe was removed to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to be installed in a Tesla Museum. Missing from Tesla's effects is a gold Edison medal he had been awarded. Swezey is seeking to locate the medal and has been advised by the Office of Alien Property (OAP) that OAP held none of Tesla's property. Swezey states he has heard the FBI assisted OAP in handling Tesla's effects while in storage, and accordingly, he asks whether Bureau could assist him in locating the Edison medal. He FBI's assistance to OAP Swezey mentions that in the Tesla biography ("The Prodigal Genius" - 1944) by John O'Neill it was stated FBI broke into Tesla's safe the day he died (1-8-43 to protect contents from enemy hands). Swezey notes this same comment appears in article ("The Genius Who Walked Alone") by Alfred H. Sinks in the June, 1955, "Coronet." Swezey says he knows FBI did not do this movie, Bureau did not enter into Tesla safe matter upon department's advice it was being handled by OAP, Bureau previously aware of comment in O'Neill's book.

Enclosures: 6-30-55
100-2237
cc - 1 - 65-47853
Ticklers - Mr. Bird
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Boardman

RECORDING: 6-30-2297-5
JUL 7 1955
EX-104
Memorandum For Mr. Boardman

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Sweezy advising Bureau did not participate in the handling of Tesla's effects and that the matter was handled by OAP. Therefore, Bureau unable to be of assistance; that no action be taken relative to Sinks' comment in "Coronet" article.
June 30, 1955

Mr. Kenneth N. Sweeney
262 Milton Street
Brooklyn 3, New York

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

With reference to your letter of June 25, 1955, our files disclose the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE:

A cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by ETB:jaac on 6-29-55 in connection with this outgoing mail.

Bufiles contain no derogatory data on correspondent; reflect only that he was close friend and admirer of Tesla.
August 1, 1955.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In his book, "Prodigal Genius", The Life of Nikola Tesla, Mr. John J. O'Neill says, on page 277, that the F.B.I. went to Tesla's hotel room, opened his steel safe and removed from it, the papers it contained.

Was there ever any publication of what these papers contained? If so, could you inform me where I might obtain a copy of such publication?

If there was no publication of the safe's content, after more than 10 years, would it be improper to publish them?

If there was no publication of the safe's content, but there were no particular secrets found there in, could you inform me where I might learn what the safe contained?

Any information on this matter will be appreciated.

Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
August 11, 1955

Dear [Name]

Your letter dated August 1, 1955, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Buffles reflect no record on correspondent. This type of reply utilized by Internal Security Division in answering similar inquiries on 8/30/55. (65-47953-33) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman dated 8/29/55 set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe mentioned was done by the Office of Alien Property.
Mr. John Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C., D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Referring to my letter to you August first, this year - your letter to me, August 11th., relative to the matter of the papers of Mr. Nikola Tesla.

On August 28, I wrote the office of Alien Property regarding this matter, indicating that I had received the information from you that it was their department which had taken the Tesla property into custody - not yours.

I have a letter from Mr. Henry C. Milken - that Department - File Number MCI-# Ekelk 017-3599, in which I am told that office "never had custody, nor has vested, any property of Nikola Tesla".

As I began this matter with you - because it was stated in Mr. O'Neill's book that it was your department who opened Tesla's safe, I am wondering if you have any further suggestions along lines I might follow to obtain some information in this regard.

Thank you for your time and trouble.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

All information contained herein is unclassified.

Date 7-28-55 by [Signature]
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-2-55

Dear [Redacted]:

I have received your letter dated September 10, 1955.

As you were advised by my letter of August 11, 1955, this Bureau was not connected in any respect with the acquisition or custody of the effects of Nikola Tesla, and it is therefore not possible to furnish you any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: By letter 8-11-55, we referred [Redacted] to the Office of Alien Property, which Office was reported to have assumed custody of Tesla's effects subsequent to his death (65-47953-6)
RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

(Please fill out this form and mail to the address appearing below.)

THE TESLA SOCIETY
University Station, Box 135
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

(date)

(city & state)

Hon. Arthur E. Summerfield
Postmaster General, Postoffice Dept.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Nikola Tesla’s contributions to science, industry, and to his adopted country have greatly inspired engineering progress. His electrical systems helped create an American economy of world pre-eminence.

We respectfully request issuance of a 1956 commemorative stamp to be issued on the centennial of Tesla’s birth (1856-1943).

(signed)

AMERICAN SRBOBRAN
June 29, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

EX. 10E
INDEXED-50
NOT RECORDED
138 JUL 13 1955

6C JUL 13 1955
The Genius Who Walked Alone

by Alfred H. Sink

Nikola Tesla was a great inventor—and also a prophet without honor.

Counter-espionage wheels started turning early on the morning of January 8, 1943. Anxious FBI agents slipped into a room in the Hotel New Yorker where, late the night before, a chambermaid had discovered the body of Nikola Tesla, dead at 86, regarded by many as the greatest scientific genius of his time.

For years, Tesla had been making scientific predictions so fantastic as to be literally out of this world. Of late he had been working—or so he said—on revolutionary new weapons powerful enough to annihilate armies at a single blow.

There was only one Tesla, and the story might—incredible as it sounded—be true. The old man's secrets, and the Government could not risk the chance of enemy spies getting there first.

Half-hoping to find something which would bring a sudden and decisive end to World War II, the G-men broke open the dead man's strong box. If anything of importance was discovered, it has never been revealed.

Yet, their quick action was justified, for you could never be sure about Tesla, one of the strangest men who ever lived. Most people took him with a grain of salt, yet no serious scientist dared shrug away his theories as nonsense. Not after Thomas Edison tried it and Tesla proved him wrong.

The world's leading physicists and electrical engineers had to eat crow back in the 1880s when Tesla solved a problem they had thought impossible. That one accomplishment—the invention of a practical alternating-current motor and gen-

JUNE, 1943.

115
United States Senate

June 26, 1973

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Senator

ATTN: U.S.S.

Form #2

ST-105

100 2237 24

7 JUN 29 1973
20 June 1973

Dear Senator 

Though I am temporarily working on a military contract, I still consider myself a resident, hence it is to you that I apply.

At 19 years of age, I became interested in a fascinating Czech physicist, Nikola Tesla. Professors Tesla emigrated to this country in the twenties, I believe, and did some of his most original work. Tesla had a peculiar bent of mind; in his younger days he was often called a mad scientist, and did not publish extensively when he came to the US. Most of the extant primary material is in untranslated Czech. Tesla was, however, an extensive note taker. I thought it strange that upon his death, none of his notes from his American period ever appeared. Upon discussing this with a friend, I was informed that all of Mr. Tesla's notes were confiscated by the FBI. I cannot conceive how these notes on physics and electricity can in any way endanger the national safety. It seems that Mr. Hoover in his zeal, had confiscated material whose only sin was a radical approach to science. There is indication that much of Professor Tesla's later work concerned a very novel approach to time theory. Needless to say, it has been radical approaches to physics that have been our greatest scientific advances in modern times, viz., Einstein, Heisenberg, et al.

I was wondering if your office might be able to determine if these papers are still extant, and if so, see to it that the public has access to them. It would be a shame to see all of Nikola Tesla's work to have been in vain.

Please excuse my typing; in all the thousands of words I typed trying to get a liberal education, I never did master the typewriter.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Enclosure

100 - 223724
July 5, 1973

Honorabe United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated June 26th enclosing a letter from your constituent, who is temporarily employed in Alaska.

In response to the inquiry, central files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded after his death by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

I am returning your enclosure as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Ruckelshaus
William D. Ruckelshaus
Acting Director

Enclosure

1 - Portland - Enclosures (2)
1 - Congressional Services Office - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Bufiles reveal prior cordial correspondence with Senator...

Burile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the count...
Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that upon the death of Mr. Nikola Tesla, the founder of modern A.C. power systems, and the original inventor of radio, and immemorial other devices, operatives of the F.B.I. opened his safe and removed his papers on 7 January 1943, within a few hours of his demise. Also, all records of his work have been seized and held by our government since his death. I would like to know WHY, and also to be informed as to WHO was, and is responsible for keeping the lid on these records. I would also like to know where they are now.

I do hope you enjoy a good laugh over the apparent naivety of such a request as this, but it is a rather strange situation to exist in a country like this, that a man of such genius and achievement could be systematically cut out of history books, and that the facts about his works could be concealed to the degree they have been. I wish to obtain access to all these old records which have been concealed for thirty years. I would appreciate your kind consideration and attention to this matter and any assistance you may care to give.

Ack 7/19/73

Jul 20 1973
Dear [Name],

Your letter was received on July 16th. In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. (Bufile 100-222 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.)
Clarence W. Kelley  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C.  20535  

Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for your letter of the 19th of July. I appreciate the information about the Office of Alien Property and its connection with the impounding of the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla. In my letter of the 16th I did not mean to imply the FBI had impounded his effects, as I was aware of the O.A.P.'s general part in the affair. The fact remains that to the best of my knowledge, it was the FBI who did in fact break into his safe only hours after his death, and did remove the papers therein. Now, in so far as the Bureau was connected, I wish to understand that extent. I do appreciate your referring my communication to the appropriate persons in the Justice Department, but perhaps you could see that the above mentioned connection of the Bureau could be further looked into. I am curious as to who asked the Bureau to perform such an act, whether it was a person in the O.A.P., or what, and on what grounds they were carried out, and to whom they were responsible. Also, to what person were the perjured papers delivered? Names of the agents involved would be appreciated, as to what happened to any other effects of his, that is probably a subject open to discussion, yet if Bureau agents participated in the safe, they may have done so on other occasions, if the personnel record opened the safe were NOT FBI agents, then we are faced with the fact that persons apparently posed as Bureau operatives, an even more interesting situation. Perhaps this where your own curiosity lies.

Oct. 8-2-73
this affair. Would it not be
interest. Are you aware that	&ars the year 1910 the
able to transmit thousands of parts of electric power to	it any point on the globe WITHOUT WIRES, that or other fears.
would make him a prime target for vested interest groups,
notably the J.P. Morgan combine with whom he had connections.
I am aware of the well earned tradition of the Bureau of NSC
serving any master but the common good, no again we have a
serious point if indeed strings were pulled. Quite frankly,
it looks as if someone went to a lot of trouble to see that
his ideas were not broadly available to ensure the stability
of their own electric technological apple cart financially,
at the expense of unguessable benefits to humanity as a
whole. How would you like to be able to draw unlimited power
out of the air to run say a light bulb with ONE wire? He did
it, and much more. My sincere thanks for your thought and
attentions to these matters.

Very best wishes,
August 2, 1973

Dear [Name]:

Your letter, which was received on July 30th, has been reviewed and I would like to point out that FBI Agents were not involved in removal of papers from the safe of Dr. Nikola Tesla, nor did we at any time have custody of his property.

I realize there have been some written accounts that our Agents acquired Dr. Tesla's belongings; however, these accounts are simply not true. You can be assured we were absolutely not responsible and there was no impersonation involved.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Correspondent had written in mid-July and asked about the effects of Dr. Tesla and he was advised that the Office of Alien Property had participated in removing his effects from his hotel room. A copy of his communication was referred to the Department of Justice. Bufiles indicate clearly that after Dr. Tesla's death some relatives opened the safe in his hotel room with the help of a locksmith and, thereafter, the Office of Alien Property confiscated all of his belongings. Bufile 100-2237 mentions that the FBI was advised of the existence of this property; however, inasmuch as the Office of Alien Property was handling Dr. Tesla's effects, the Bureau had absolutely no hand in the entire matter.
June 9, 1975

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington D.C. 20535

Sirs:

We recently contacted the San Francisco FBI office and a review of their files revealed information concerning the scientist Nikola Tesla or his papers which we understand to have been impounded.

If you could make a thorough investigation of all files and materials available to you, we would greatly appreciate the correspondence of any information that might be discovered.

Thank you,

[Redacted]
July 7, 1975

This will acknowledge your letter of June 9th.

In response to your inquiry, the papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 indicates that Dr. Tesla was a world famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death his personal papers and effects were impounded by Office of Alien Property for national security reasons. Since Tesla's death in 1943 the Bureau has received numerous inquiries about the disposition of his technical papers. The above reply is forwarded in answer to these inquiries. Bufiles contain no information identifiable with requesters.
Mr. Clarence Kelley  
Director  
F.B.I.  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Kelley:

In reply to the letter of 10 November from your office:

I restate that I was not asking about the existence or non-existence of any investigative information on Nikola Tesla, but on his technical papers seized on his death in 1943 and reported in the papers of that time.

The reason given in the reply from your office, the second paragraph, as to why I cannot get any information on Tesla's papers makes no sense in itself or in reply to my inquiry. The third paragraph stating the conditions under which a search will be made is a clear bureaucratic circumvention of the Freedom of Information Act and an excuse on the part of the individual handling my request for doing any work beyond the drafting of a letter. Will it be the decision of your office to let the situation stand like this?

As I stated in my first letter, I am following up the Tesla data for a magazine article. I am tempted to have your reply of the 16th printed and run nationally as an example of how bureaucratic maneuvering is used to get around the FOIA. Does the bureau need more of this type of publicity?

It is disheartening to see an agency entrusted to uphold the law using its resources to mock the law.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

13 November 1975

[Stamp]
November 26, 1975

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Bureau on November 14th.

In response to your inquiry, the papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

NOTE: File 100-2237 indicates that Dr. Tesla was a world famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death his personal papers and effects were impounded by Office of Alien Property for National Security reasons. Since Tesla's death in 1943 the Bureau has received numerous inquiries about the disposition of his technical papers. The above reply is forwarded in answer to these inquiries.
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**REMARKS**

**FOIA** - [Redacted]

Do NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disapprovals, clearances, and similar actions.

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**FROM** (Name, office symbol or location)  
Susan M. Hauser  
**DATE** 10/21/75  
**PHONE** 2145
Freedom of Information Act Request

Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Gentlemen:

I am writing an article for a magazine on early twentieth century inventors and want to obtain information on some papers of Nikola Tesla that were seized by the FBI on his death in 1943.

Tesla invented a number of electrical devices and because of the war and because Tesla was born a Yugoslavian national, it was probably considered a measure of preventative safety to hold in safekeeping papers that might have any bearing on national security.

I would like to find out: 1) if the FBI still has the papers; 2) if they do have the papers, what must be done to see them; 3) if they do not have the papers, who does have them or what happened to them?

I would be very grateful for your help with this.

Sincerely,

REC. 2

100-2237-28

11-10-75

Sincerely, Oct 24 1975

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS LETTER IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-3-80 BY JPL
TMan was waxen by his brilliant idea of a "rotating magnetic field" which could change the face of the earth and the living habits of the human race. When he was about six, Nikola Tesla's father, the village priest, was transferred to a larger parish in the city of Gospic. There, the lad grew up and perfected his earliest "inventions." Of these, his favorite was an "engine" powered by 16 June bugs, harnessed in sets of four to spokes which radiated from the drive shaft.

Nikola was a frail lad, often ill, and he nearly went blind from too much reading. He read everything he could get his hands on, not only science but also religion, philosophy, history, literature. By the time he finished high school, he was fluent in French, German and Italian, as well as his native Serbo-Croatian. He got his schooling, the best his doting family could afford, at Gospic, Cakovec, Zagreb, the University of Prague, and finally, at Budapest. At the University, he saw his first electric motor, a new type of direct current affair whose brushes and commutators sent out showers of crackling blue sparks.

"If we get rid of those brushes and commutators, with all their noise and loss of energy, we'd have a much better motor," Nikola told his professor. "Perhaps it might be done with an alternating current." "Nonsense!" barked the professor. "An alternating current would never run anything. You'll just be a fool, student!" thought you when you thought of the teacher's ridiculous, unfounded notion. The idea indelibly on his brain. It became an obsession, a passion how to make an alternating current drive a motor. In every idle moment, wherever he went, he wrestled with the problem.

Tesla's mind was an unusual beast. Almost from infancy, he had been able to see things in his mind's eye. He could see things entirely in vivid detail, that often he had trouble telling the real from the imaginary.
Where the average engineer or inventor would reach instinctively for drawing board, paper and pencil, Tesla would simply switch on that uncanny magic lantern inside his brain. He would fix a mental image there. Then he would alter this detail or that, discard one plan, try another, without ever putting a line on paper.

Years later, from these mental images alone, he could give his workingmen exact instructions on how to build each part of a new device, though it was unlike anything ever seen before.

Thus, needing no drafting room and few laboratory conveniences to work on an idea, Tesla could use every spare minute that he had to test and revise his theory of alternating current.

His first real job was manager of a newly organized telephone company in Budapest. But telephone circuits were dull stuff compared with the challenge of that one big idea. He moved to Paris where he became a kind of general troubleshooter for the Continental Edison Company.

His brain was still chipping away at his big problem, but the trouble was, he couldn't share it with trained men who might have helped him work it out. For whenever he mentioned alternating current to an electrical engineer, the man would look at him as though he were crazy.

But then came the moment when he knew he had solved it. He was walking with a friend in the Bois de Boulogne. Suddenly, he stopped short and began jabbering with his friend at some invisible object in the air.

"See it works!" he shouted. "It is the rotating magnetic field which causes the current to turn. It pulls them in and around with it, causing the shaft to revolve. As I oscillate this switch, causing the current to flow first in one direction, then the other..."

Never mind what his friend thought. Tesla had the answer.

At the office, his colleagues scolded or looked blank. But the manager, listening to the outpourings of scientific genius, suddenly thought that Tesla had a chance back in the United States. If there were some like him in what the Croat said, surely the famous electrical wizard would be smart enough to see it.

So he gave Tesla a letter of introduction to Thomas Edison and urged him to try his luck in America. This Tesla, now 27, arrived in New York. He was handsome, over six feet two, with a distinguished head and deep-set blue eyes. His Slavic face was broad across the cheeks, his dark hair thick, his chin sharply pointed. Of worldly goods, he had the clothes on his back, four cents in cash, the letter to Edison, and the idea which was to change the world.

Edison thought less than nothing of the idea. It seemed so preposterous that he wouldn't even listen.
and, of course, Tesla had no
drawings with which to try to con-
vince him. But Edison gave him a
job, for he had excellent training
as an engineer, and Edison needed
trained men.

Busy with routine electrical work,
Tesla wasted nearly three years for
a chance to turn his mental image
into an actual motor he could show
to others. In 1887, he was able to
borrow enough money to start his
own laboratory, and the following
year the alternating-current motor
and generator were practical realities
and laboratory-scale though
much practical engineering would
still be needed to fit them to com-
mercial use.

George Westinghouse, another
inventor, was the first to see their
value. He bought the patents and
gave Tesla a job as engineer in his
Pittsburgh factories.

But Tesla couldn't get along with
the other Westinghouse engineers.
From his standpoint, the alternating-
current job was done. Even
"schoolboys" could now iron out
the few remaining kinks. Mean-
time, his brain had started to hatch
even bigger dreams. He went back
to his laboratory in New York.

"Be alone. The public holds a
science writer. That's the secret of
invention. Be done, that's where
great ideas are born."

And he was. In the years that
followed, Tesla had many ad-
miring acquaintances, but seldom
a friend. After his mother's death,
an ever-presented his personal life.

His manner toward others was
demanding but reserved, distant. His
words were as infrequent by some
end, sitting on an Olympus high
above the rest of humanity. Backed
by his Time, those words made a
triumphant impression.

He lectured at every scientific
center in this country and in all the
important capitals abroad. Things
which, as yet, existed only inside
that amazing brain of his were so
real to him, he made them real to
his listeners.

He described radar and radio
broadcasting and even television.
He advocated electro-therapy. He
foretold a day when man would
control nature in every respect—
even the weather—when machines
of all kinds, and the power to run
them, would be so cheap that pov-
city would vanish from the world.

Without wanting to be, Tesla
was a spiritual leader. With listening
to him and seeing his wonders, au-
diences were ready to believe nearly
anything.

Tesla reasoned that you could
sell electric power cheap if you
could do away with the millions of
poles and insulators, the millions
of tons of copper wire used to transmit
it from place to place. He thought
he knew how to do it— and J. P.
Morgan backed him with $100,000.

On Long Island, Tesla built a
huge power plant with a 184-foot
steel-clad tower topped by an
enormous mushroom-shaped copper
dome. From this dome he
planned to bombard the earth's
atmosphere with millions of volts of
electric energy. The power so added
to the earth's permanent charge could
be drawn off at some point
where a point on the earth's surface.

Thus, it would be possible for
electric power to be sent anywhere
without conduits, poles, or wires. Or
so he thought, until he tried it.
In November, 1878, Tesla announced that he could destroy war.
The inventor had designed a small, inexpensive, radio-controlled boat which, through its supposed ability to destroy the biggest battleships, would make great navies useless. Not many years later, he was talking of another super-weapon, a "death ray" which would annihilate whole armies.

Yet Tesla never suspected that the red super-weapon of the future would come from atomic fission. For Einstein's basic notion which led to smashing the atom, he had only ridicule. More in his middle age, he had fallen out of step with the world's great thinker.

Not all Tesla's later inventions were fantastic. Some, like his induction coils and oscillators, and pioneer work on "tuned" electrical circuits, were highly important.

Though he never succeeded in transmitting power without wires on a big scale, he did prove that a single wire is enough. And some of his brilliant prophecies inspired the more plodding scientists to work out the practical problems of induction heating, radio telephony, radar and many other electronic marvels of today.

But as he grew older, he withdrew further and further with the self. His strange prophecies sounded like a voice from another planet. For contemplation now, the old man had only his dreams, and they grew stranger with the years. Completely alone, at last, a stooped, gian figure with thin, silver hair, he used to slip from the hotel room, buy a loaf of bread, and trudge slowly over to a park where hundreds of pigeons waited him. These were his friends. They needed him, though the world did not.

When he grew too ill to go out, each day he sent a Western Union messenger to the park. After feeding the birds, the boy is instructed to see if any of them seemed sick. If so, he was to bring them back to Tesla's room where the inventor would nurse them gently back to health.

Perhaps this sad little labor of love showed that the man who changed the world had, at last, discovered a great truth. Perhaps he knew now that the greatest power for good lies not in a brief thought but in a human heart pulsating like his own "tuned circuits" - in tune with the hearts of his fellow men. Or did he ever know? You could never be sure about Tesla.

Winnie Wilt

In the early 1920s, when Winston Churchill had offended both his own supporters and the political opposition, the late George Bernard Shaw wrote him: "I enclose two vouchers for the premiere of my new play, for yourself and a friend of any.

Back in the playwright promptly came the thank you with this note from "Winnie": "I regret I am unable to attend the premiere of your new play. Please send me the two vouchers for the second performance if any."

JUNE 1935

119
RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

At last the Serbians—American and Canadian—have acted to honor the memory and achievements of one of Serbia's greatest sons.

For the world-wide Centennial celebration of Dr. Nikola Tesla's birth next year, Serbs on this Continent plan to erect a bust statue of the electrical genius to stand before the entrance of the Monastery at Libertyville, Ill.

Steps looking towards that end were taken at the recent SNF convention following the reading of a letter by President Mile Radakovich from His Grace, Bishop Nicolai. As the universally-renowned churchman stated, erection of a suitable monument, by Serbians, would forever remind other Serbs of the honor and glory of Dr. Nikola Tesla. And that he was a SERBIAN, son of a SERBIAN ORTHODOX clergyman, born in the SERBIAN SELO of Smiljan in Lika.

Further, His Grace urged that the undertaking be a joint one and representative of ALL the Serbian organizations in the United States and Canada. He naturally looked to the SNF for leadership, and the greatest monetary contribution. But he also besought the help of the Serbian Nat'l Defense and the Jedinstvo beneficial society.

The Convention voted $1000 for the project and a hand collection was taken up among the delegates and guests, kinsmen Mile Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., giving $200. It is probable that the balance of the needed $3000 will be raised thru public good-will offerings and thru gifts of the other two organizations mentioned.

And after a suitable bust has been erected for Dr. Tesla, Bishop Nicolai suggested a similar-like monument honor the memory of Dr. Mihailo Pupin, also a world-renowned scientist, author and educator.

This is a subject near and dear to all good Serbian hearts.

"AMERICAN SRBOBRAN"
September 28, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pa.
SNF Opens Drive for Tesla Memorial at Libertyville

$2000 Public Aid Sought

PITTSBURGH, PA. — The Serbian National Federation Executive Board has acted quickly to implement a Convention decision to honor the memory of the illustrious Dr. Nikola Tesla.

At its first meeting of October 8, the Board drafted a resolution calling on all SNF members and good Serbians to help finance a memorial project for the late scientist-inventor genius.

This would stand before the entrance of the Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.

Cost of the contemplated project, which would bring the world that Dr. Tesla was a Serbian, is estimated at $3000. The Convention voted $1000 to the cause and a hand collection among 122 delegates yielded several hundred dollars more.

Kinsman Milos Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., gave $20.

Public Aid Sought

Balance of the needed sum is now being sought thru good-will offerings of the general Serbian populace in the United States and Canada.

A fund, similar to the one being conducted to help Serb migration expenses on Shadeland, has been established.

It is hoped to raise the necessary monies and complete the project in time for the worldwide Centennial celebration for the genius next year.

Spearheading the movement for recognition, especially among American elements, is the Tesla Society, founded by scientist-engineer Leland Anderson, a fanatical admirer of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Mr. Anderson right now is conducting a search for a famous portrait of the Serbian electrical wizard done at the turn of the century in New York.

Seek Missing Portrait

In his current TESLAIAN publication, Mr. Anderson revealed the work, by Princess Violna Lwoff-Parlaghy, is missing.

Reviewing developments, Mr. Anderson wrote:

"On March 1, 1916, the Princess gave a reception in her new studio in New York especially to exhibit her latest portrait of Nikola Tesla. An article in the NEW YORK TIMES for March 2, 1916, stated—"It was one of the beliefs of Mr. Tesla that there was something unlucky about posing for a picture and he never sat to any before he entered the studio of the Princess. The room which she had chosen did not have a sky-light in it and the much desired North exposure was missing."

"At the suggestion of Mr. Tesla, a cluster of powerful incandescents was put up in the corner of the apartment and the rays, filtered thru blue glass, were just the right quality. The portrait was shown under the same illumination.

At Ease for Sitting

"Mr. Tesla, having solved the problem of the artificial sun, fell to thinking about other parts of the universe, and there he sat oblivious to his surroundings.

"The painter was able to produce a likeness in which there is no evidence that the subject was conscious that anybody was watching him, much less studying his features from the other side of the easel."

"Among those who attended the reception were Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Henry P. Davison, the Countess de Rittenburg and Mrs. E. T. Isham."

After the Princess died in 1923, her studio and all objects of art, was sold at auction.

The Tesla portrait, 51/2 inches, appeared on the cover of TIME magazine (July 28, 1931) and in the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER (January 1939). Mr. Anderson says its location is not now known.
Half of $3000 Costs For Statue Pledged

Cadiz, O., Serb Gives $100 For Bust Image of Inventor To Be Placed at Monastery

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Half of the $3000 fund goal for a statue memorial of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla has been realized, the SNF announced today.

In fact, total contributions counted so far come to $1580.

The fund is an outgrowth of a plea by Bishop Nicolai for Serbians to do honor for the memory of the noted electrical wizard during the world-wide Centennial celebration planned for the genius next year.

In the wake of the plea, voiced at the recent 7th Convention at Niagara Falls, Canada, the delegates approved a $1000 gift from the SNF and decided to raise, by public grant, the balance of $2000.

A hand collection among the 122 grass-roots leaders of the Society raised another $450. Then, at its first meeting October 5, the newly-elected Executive Board of the SNF appealed to the membership at large to fulfill the balance required.

First Contribution $100

A scant 24 hours after the appeal was published in the Society's "Srbobran" organ last Wednesday, Sime Zelich of Cadiz, O., gave $100.

The proposed memorial, a statue image, would be placed before the entrance of the St. Sava Serbian Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.
Central celebration ends.

Donors and their amounts of
donations are as follows:

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Prof. Anthony Tomovich
(Edmonton, Alberta, Can.) 10.00
Teta Andja Mamula (Pittsburgh) 5.00
Martha Mamula Bjelosh (Pittsburgh) 10.00
Sime Zelich (Cadiz, O.) 100.00
Milinko Alexich, war invalid
(Omaha, Nebr.) 5.00

Total $1,000.00

---the honoring, forever, of two of Serbia’s best-known immigrant sons who contributed so greatly to the welfare and prosperity of their adopted America.

We hope to report developments as soon as they take place, remembering Bishop Nikola’s concluding remarks:

“Nikola Tesla, in the field of science, brought the Serbian name great glory—just as did the greatest Serbian knights on the field of battle.”
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

During my senior year at Georgetown University, I read J.J. O’Niel’s Biography of Nikola Tesla; the book, entitled ‘Prodigal Genius,’ described quite a few of Tesla’s experiments, most of which I tried myself in the physics lab. I am interested in reviewing Tesla’s experiments in wireless electric power transmission.

Unfortunately, Tesla died in 1945 just at the time he supposedly had developed a system of wireless power transmission. Since World War II was then in progress his papers were seized and sealed by the F.B.I. I suppose that by now Tesla’s papers have been released for publication, but a call to the Library of Congress produced no results. Therefore, I have two questions:

1) Does the F.B.I. now have Tesla’s scientific papers?
2) If so, are they available for public inspection? If they were released, who has them?

I will certainly appreciate any help you can give me along these lines. Tesla published very little of his findings; this, coupled with the fact that wireless power is connected by most people with “Death Rays” and crack-pots has made it nearly impossible for me to find anything on the subject.

Yours very truly,
June 29, 1956

Dear [Redacted],

Your letter dated June 28, 1956, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Files reflect no record on correspondent and reveal the correct spelling of Tesla's name as "Nikola." Files reflect this type of report has been utilized by the Domestic Intelligence Division in answering similar inquiries. (65-47953; 100-2237) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Boardman 6-29-55, set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.
Office Memo

UNITED GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (65-12290)

DATE: 7/25/57

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased) IS - YU

Street, New York

24, New York, a United States citizen of Yugoslav extraction, who on occasion, voluntarily furnishes the New York Office with information he considers to be in the interests of the Security of the United States Government, furnished Special Agent NICHOLAS J. MASTROVICH the following information on July 3, 1957:

Mrs. MARGARET STORM stated that a certain woman named MRS. STORM, who lives with her husband, JOHN, at the Colonial Hostel, 51 West 81st Street, New York 24, New York, has been issuing newsletters which contain information pertaining to flying saucers and interplanetary matters.

She stated that in his opinion Mr. and Mrs. STORM are exploiting the reputation and genius of NIKOLA TESLA, deceased, inventor of Yugoslav extraction who achieved world wide fame as a result of his inventions in the United States.

TESLA was born in Smiljan, Yugoslavia in July, 1859 and came to the United States in 1894 and became a naturalized United States citizen. In 1886 TESLA designed the arc-lighting system and two years later he invented the Tesla motor and designed a plan for the transmission of alternating current. In subsequent years, TESLA's discoveries and inventions included such fields and appliances as wireless communication, electrically oscillation, radiant power and radio active matter. After 1900, communications and wireless power transmission occupied most of his research.

From: FELLOWS

SE 43

14 JUL 29 1957

RECORDED-66

INDEXED-66

(4)

1 - New York (65-12290)

2 - Bureau (RM) (Encls. 2)

Encl. 1 - Los Angeles (Info) (Encl. 1) (RM)

NJM: mod

1957
TESLA's only military invention was a method to which he once alluded but never fully described. This invention was a means whereby an impenetrable "wall of force" can be erected around the United States' borders which would render helpless any military attack. TESLA disclosed the existence of his plan in 1934 and stated he intended to present it to the Geneva Conference but seldom referred to it afterward.

The "New York Times" dated 9/22/40, carried an article setting forth NIKOLA TESLA's plan for a "Death Ray". This article included information to the effect that TESLA, on his 84th birthday, July 10, 1940, advised New York Times reporter WILLIAM L. PENNINGTON that he was ready to divulge to the United States Government the secret of his "teleforce", with which he said airplane motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles so that an invisible Chinese wall of defense would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy airforce no matter how large. According to TESLA, this "teleforce" was based on an entirely new principle of Physics that "no one has ever dreamed about" and was different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he received a number of basic patents.

TESLA stated that this new type of force would operate through a beam one hundred millionth of a square centimeter in diameter and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than two million dollars and would take only about three months to construct. TESLA stated that a dozen such plants located at strategic points along the coast, according to TESLA, would be enough to defend the United States against all possible aerial attacks. TESLA stated that this beam would melt any engine and would also ignite explosives aboard any bomber. TESLA stated that no possible defense against it could be devised and he asserted that the beam would be all penetrating.
TESLA stated to Mr. LAWRENCE that he makes one important stipulation before he would divulge this secret to the United States Government and that was that should the United States Government decide to take up his offer, he would go to work at once but that the United States Government would have to trust him. TESLA stated that he would suffer "no interference from experts."

In this "New York Times" article Mr. LAWRENCE commented that with conditions as they were in 1940, and with the United States getting ready to spend millions of dollars for National Defense, Mr. TESLA's great reputation as an inventor, who always was many years ahead of his time, should be given careful consideration. Mr. LAWRENCE stated, in his opinion, the United States Government should take Mr. TESLA at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his "teleforce" plant.

The New York file of Mr. TESLA bears no indication that any additional developments were carried on in connection with TESLA's invention and whether or not TESLA fully divulged his new plan to the United States Government.

TESLA died at the age of 85 on January 7, 1943.

Mr. [redacted] provided a two page copy of the above mentioned newsletter which Mr. and Mrs. STORM have been distributing in connection with the alleged invention by TESLA, which, according to Mr. and Mrs. STORM, consists of a radio type machine known as the Tesla Set which was invented by Mr. TESLA in 1938 for interplanetary communication. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that TESLA's engineers did not complete the Tesla Set until after TESLA's death in 1943. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that this Set was placed in operation in 1950 and since that time TESLA engineers have been in close touch with space ships, etc.
The Newsletter furnished by Mr. included (6/7/0) the following names:

MARGAET STORM
JOHN STORM
GEORGE VAN TASSEL, Yucca Valley, California
D. FRY, ATL. N.Y.
GEORGE WANG, London, England

The files of the New York Office contained no pertinent information regarding any of the above mentioned individuals.

Two photostatic copies of this newsletter are being sent to the Bureau for purposes of information while one copy is being submitted to the Los Angeles Office for information purposes.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

I am honored to have certain information on records and data, which belonged to Dr. Nikola Tesla. He was an Electrical Engineer and prolific inventor.

He was born in Yugoslavia in 1856 and died in the United States, New York City, January 7th, 1943. He was a naturalized citizen of this country.

The only information I could find of his records was a report that the F.B.I. removed his papers for examination, and that the records were sealed by the custodian of alien property.

I have been doing some theoretical research of my own, which I believe may be along the same lines he followed in certain of his experiments. I also believe the development of his ideas would be in the interest of our country regardless of who develops them.

If it is at all possible for me to have access to at least some of his experimental work, I would certainly appreciate it. I am not able, by reason of the vast finances, which would be required, to conduct such experiments myself, so the data he made and collected would be invaluable.

Of course, it is possible that his records do not contain material pertinent to his electronics work, because from what I understand from reading about him, he kept most of his records in his head and wrote down very little of his data.

It is also possible that some of his ideas are impractical, but I feel sure that certain of his ideas will be of immense value to our country within the next several decades or even before, if they are developed at a rapid rate.

I would appreciate hearing from you on the subject, if you have any information pertaining to it, which you could make available to me.

Sincerely,

100-2231-9

16 MAR 1952

74
March 14, 1958

Dear [Name]

Your letter postmarked March 1, 1958, was received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property in the Department of Justice and not by the FBI.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bullet reflects no record on correspondent. Bullet reflects above type of reply has been utilized in the past in answering similar inquiries. No cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman 6/29/55 got forth background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the handling of the effects containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.
Dear Sirs,

I am doing a research study on the life of Dr. Nikola Tesla of New York City (1856-1943), and desire information which you may have. It was reported in the book "Prodigal Genius" that Dr. Tesla's papers were seized from his New York hotel room upon his death in 1943 by the F.B.I. I am very interested in getting copies of his papers for my study and would like to know if this report is true and where I might obtain further information about them or if you are holding them.

Sincerely yours,
July 2, 1959

INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN THIS DOCUMENT
DATED 7-2-59

Dear [Name],

Your letter dated June 24, 1959, has been referred.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were suspended, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice, and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: File 100-2337 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appraising his property. Details clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department that did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.
Memorandum

TO: MR. TROTTER  
FROM: A. K. Bowles

DATE: 12-6-60

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (DECEASED) INFORMATION CONCERNING

I telephoned December 5 and was referred to ident by switchboard because he wanted to talk with someone in charge of records of deceased. He said he is making a research study for U. S. Air Force on subject of geophysics. His deadline is ten days from now. He said he just discovered a sentence in a book by John N. O'Neill entitled "The Prodigal Genius -- The Life of Nikola Tesla," which states the FBI took custody of papers from Tesla's safe after his death in New York City in 1943. Tesla was a world-famous Yugoslav scientist and inventor in the electrical field who died January 7, 1943, in New York City. He requested immediate access to Tesla's scientific works which may shed light on research study. I told we would have somebody from our Boston Office contact him immediately.

Bureau file 100-2237 shows no investigation of Tesla has been conducted by Bureau. Since erroneous statement concerning FBI's taking custody of papers from Tesla's safe after his death appeared in O'Neill's book published in 1944, Bureau has received numerous inquiries from scientists desiring to review Tesla's writings. Each inquiry has been answered by stating FBI did not participate in handling Tesla's effects, but information has come to our attention that Office of Alien Property of Department of Justice may have examined Tesla's effects. (File indicates that representatives of Office of Alien Property did actually review Tesla's possessions, including his writings, but file does not show what final disposition was made of Tesla's possessions.)

A teletype to Boston Division was prepared, but before it was sent telephoned again to furnish me the exact page in O'Neill's book in which he refers to the FBI. At that time I told the statement in the book was untrue -- that the FBI had not examined or taken custody of Tesla's papers. I suggested to that he might contact Office of Alien Property. (Therefore, teletype to Boston was not necessary.)

ACTION:

For record.

REC 365 DEC 8 360
February 14, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Information
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am a college student who is doing a research paper on Nikola Tesla. As I was collecting the material for my paper, I discovered that at the time of Tesla's death, the department of the F.B.I. confiscated the data and papers that Tesla had collected from his research in the field of electricity. This confiscation of his material was stated in the PRODIGAL GENIUS by J.J. O'Neill, published in 1944 at New York city by Washburn Inc.

I have developed an interest in the discoveries and accomplishments of Tesla that is presently limited by the shortage of factual material. If in your files, you have any information concerning Nikola Tesla that you are permitted to release, I will sincerely appreciate your cooperation in helping me give the proper recognition to this great scientist and American. Below I have listed the facts that may be helpful to you:

1. Born in 1856 at Smiljan, Crotia, now Yugoslavia
2. Came to America in 1884 and was employed for a short time with the Edison Co. at Orange, N. J.
3. Died on January 7, 1943 at New York city

Thanking you for your time and cooperation that I have taken, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,
February 23, 1961

Dear [Name],

Your letter of February 14, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: No record could be located in Buffels identifiable with correspondent. Buffel 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Mail, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Buffels clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

March 5, 1961

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT
November 21, 1962

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I am making a study, motivated out of personal curiosity, into the life and works of Nikola Tesla. Mr. Tesla died on January 7, 1943 in the Hotel New Yorker. Since F.B.I. Operatives opened his safe and took his papers for examination, I wonder if these papers are available for perusal? If they are available, where would they be located, and are copies available to the public?

I am a citizen of the United States, and have been cleared for security--the latest one being for work on...

Thank you very much for any information or help you may be able to give me in this matter!!

Respectfully yours,

[Redacted]

EX-114

REC-39

100-2237

11-27-60
Dear [Name],

Your letter of November 31st has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since this Bureau did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 shows that Dr. Tesla was one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating Dr. Tesla's property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply has been forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Dr. Tesla was born in Yugoslavia and died in New York City 1-7-43.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sirs,

For some time, have been wondering about the matter of what was reported on the late Nikola Tesla, the inventor. He died during early January 1943, while in residence at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. Accounts have it that his belongings (papers, etc.) were studied. Would appreciate learning if anything can be learned about this.

Am hoping to be on leave, and in Washington, along the third week of April. This is mentioned, in case it is possible to view anything relating to the question.

Sincerely,
March 18, 1964

INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY

Dear [Name],

Your letter of March 10th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.
Sir,

According to "Prodical Genius, Nikola Festa" by J. J. O'Neil (a book) some papers were taken from the safe of Mr. Festa about 1945 yr. Is this true. If so are the papers declassified yet? If so may I obtain a copy?

(5)(2)(C)

Sir,

According to "Prodical Genius, Nikola Festa" by J. J. O'Neil (a book) some papers were taken from the safe of Mr. Tesla about 1945 yr. Is this true. If so are the papers declassified yet? If so may I obtain a copy?

EX-16
00-2237-15
JUN 23 1954
6X(2)C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SPY/EP
June 23, 1964

Your card of June 16th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufile 100-2237 identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands.

The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.
Dear Sirs:

I am a student of the history of science at Oregon State University, and I am attempting to write a research paper on a very eccentric scientist who died in 1943. His name was Nikola Tesla, a naturalized American of Serbian extraction, and he died in his hotel room in New York City on January 7, 1943.

During the years leading up to World War II, Nikola Tesla supposedly invented a "Death Ray" which could destroy several hundred aircraft. Mr. Tesla was a very prolific and creative genius during his early years but gradually became something of a crackpot in his old age. As a student of the history of science, it is important to determine whether or not Tesla had any valid ideas in the plans for his death ray. Tesla invented the fluorescent light and also was one of the first scientists to discover X-Rays--hence there may be some possibility that his death ray might actually have been some crude type of laser.

In Tesla's biography, "Prodigal Genius", by John J. O'Neill, the author states on page 277:

"Operatives from the F.B.I. came to Tesla's hotel room shortly after his death and opened the safe in his room. They took the papers that it contained in order to examine them for a reported secret invention of possible use in the war..."

I am trying to locate Tesla's secret and unpublished writings concerning his death ray. I have searched the literature quite thoroughly and have found nothing. Does the F.B.I. still have these papers or can you tell where I might be able to obtain these writings for examination? Any assistance or information that you may lend me will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

March 28, 1967

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Department of Information
9th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington 25, D. C. 20535

DATE 7-3-60 BY

INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN THIS LETTER IS UNCLASSIFIED
April 3, 1967

Your letter of March 28th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.
TRUE COPY

INFORMATION CONTAINED, 1969
RECEIVED 7-3-69 BY J. E. RANDOLPH
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In the year 1943 the F.B.I. confiscated all of the papers and maybe some of the machines of physicist, Nikola Tesla. These papers were his experiments and ideas at the time of his death. According to the books I've read, these papers were confiscated on the grounds of the enemy getting a hold of his ideas and apply them to war machines.

I have studied all of the material on this man and have found him to be more intelligent than the great "Brain" of his time, Thomas Edison.

Why without Nikola Tesla there would be Westinghouse Company as we know today. This is the man who harnessed Niagara Falls, and was the one and only man who could see the possibilities of Alternating Current when men like Edison said "it would never work."

What I am wondering is, maybe these papers could be reclassified from whatever "Top Secret" classification they now have and be made available for study by the people who understand and can gain knowledge from them.

I would be willing to pay for reproductions of his experiments if nothing else. He still has a great many ideas that have never been tried.

It disturbs me to think that everyone has forgotten about the ideas of this man when he was so advanced for his time.

I can say with assurance that no man alive can say that he knows all of Tesla's ideas. And studying other men's ideas is the way to advance in science faster.

I hope something can be done to get these papers released.

Thank You,
Dear Mr. Hoover,

In the year 1943 the F.B.I. confiscated all of the papers and maybe some of the machines of physicist, Nikola Tesla. These papers were his experiments and ideas at the time of his death. According to the books I've read, these papers were confiscated on the grounds of the enemy getting ahold of his ideas and apply them to war machines.

I have studied all of the material on this man and have found him to be more intelligent than the great "Brain" of his time, Thomas Edison. Why without Nikola Tesla there would be the Westinghouse company as we know today. This is the man who harnessed Niagara Falls, and was the one and only man who could see the possibilities of Alternating Current when men like Edison said "it would never work."

What I am wondering is, maybe these papers could be reclassified from whatever "Top Secret" classification they now have and be made available for study by the people who understand and can gain knowledge from them.

(Declassification)

Feb. 25, 1969
I would be willing to pay for reproductions of his experiments if nothing else. He still has a great many ideas that have never been tried.

It disturbs me to think that everyone has forgotten about the ideas of this man when he was so advanced for his time.

I can say with assurance that no man alive can say that he knows all of Tesla's ideas. And studying other men's ideas is the way to advance in science faster.

I hope something can be done to get these papers released.

Thank you,
March 4, 1969

100-2237-17

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-60 BY J. Edgar Hoover

Dear [Name],

Your letter of February 25th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication has been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.
April 8, 1970

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Director of Central Records
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am doing a research paper on Nikola Tesla and would appreciate it if you could please provide me with the following information.

That information being why did your Bureau impound his personal effects immediately after his death on January 7, 1943. Secondly, could you provide a list of those effects, and lastly, when were they released and to whom were they given.

Thanking you for the information.

Nikola

All information contained herein is unclassified.

Date 1-3-80 by JOE Raffo

REC 74

APR 16 1970

94
April 14, 1970

Dear [Redacted]:

In reply to your inquiry of April 9th, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

A copy of your communication has been referred to the Department of Justice for any help it may be able to offer.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Buffiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. Buffile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Buffiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above buffile is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.
July 15, 1970

Dear [Redacted]:

Your letter was received on July 13th and the interest which prompted you to write to me is appreciated. With respect to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and the FBI did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings. In addition, this Bureau is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and matters such as you mentioned do not come within the scope of this Bureau's authority.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Buffile contains no record of correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and, at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. Buffiles indicate that the Office of Alien Property of the Department appropriated his property and replies similar to the above have been used to answer related inquiries.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am writing this to you as I believe that most of the government is infiltrated with foreign agents, and there is a very good chance this could be of extreme importance for the defense of our nation.

I met a man a number of years ago that was raised on Long Island in the neighborhood where Mr. Tesla, inventor of the Tesla Coil, had his lab. He told me of Mr. Tesla's notes blowing down the street when the junk men were dismantling his equipment. It would be a wonderful thing is some of these notes were salvaged and could be found.

Mr. Tesla was at least a century ahead of his time. He sent radio signals around the world seventeen years prior to Mr. Marconi, who received the credit, and pioneered many fields. He was so far advanced that he had to invent a special math to keep up with his work.

He, on several occasions talked before the scientists of the world and became very angry at their inability to understand him, and due to this was violently disliked and did not receive acknowledgement for his discoveries. One of the notes read by this man told of the radio transmission of electricity being brought to a high degree of efficiency.

Now here is the thing that should be investigated thoroughly. During my High School education, in the winter of either 19-25-26 or 1926-27, I made a current events report on an article appearing in a small publication of that name that was received weekly at the Troy Highschool, Troy Montana. It stated in this article that Mr. Tesla had made an offer to the Congress of the United States that if they would install radio transmission towers at every 150 miles around the border of this country, that he would install equipment that would broadcast a vertical plane of energy beyond the atmosphere through which no material object could pass as it would shatter or lose its monocular cohesion. It was refused.

There is a good chance that this data is in the files of congress. What a defense, and boy do we need it. EX-117 REC-3 100-237-19

I have had some results along this line with structured vortices of magnetic fields, but do not have the technical equipment or knowledge to carry out further experiments. The theory is quite simple and deals with particle acceleration, and it works to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

(Handwritten Signature)
6 DECEMBER 1971

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have recently begun a collection and reading file of all matters pertaining to Nikola Tesla. In so doing I was amazed to find that upon his death, January 7, 1943, in NYC, your bureau confined his papers. May I ask if you still "have them in jail". I am extremely interested in his work(s) and am trying to establish my own "Tesla" library. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Redacted]
December 14, 1971

Dear

Your letter of December 6th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. We did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings in any way. Copies of your communication and my reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record correspondent. Dr. Tesla was world-famous electrical inventor, and at death, his effects believed dangerous to country's security. "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges FBI took safe and appropriated his property. Above reply previously given to same inquiries. (100-2237) Material sent to the Assistant Attorney, Civil Division, of the Department.
Federal Bureau Of Investigation
Ninth Street and Pennsylvania
Northeast Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Sirs,

Upon reading a biography on Nikola Tesla, I found the urge to read more on him and his works. At the end of the book it was stated that the F.B.I. went to his hotel room gathered up his papers and locked them in a vault. The thing I would like to know is the real reason they were locked up and if it would be possible to see some of these records and any other works of his.

I can think of only one possible reason as to cause of his records being locked up and that is because he was too far advanced for his time. This seems to be the only logical solution, but, with technology much more advanced now than in his time it would seem likely that scientists take over where he left off.

Please let me know if I can look at the records and if you can please answer my question of the real reason his records were locked up.

Thank You,
October 31, 1972

Dear [Name],

Your letter was received on October 26th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. I am forwarding a copy of your communication and of this reply to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Buffles. Buffles 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Buffles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington District of Columbia

Dear sirs,

During my research on Nikola Tesla, I found that the I.B.I. had confiscated his records pertaining to his experiments. I would like to know if such information is available and if so how copies might be obtained.

I am an engineering student and hope possibly to resume where Tesla left off.

I have the honor to remain,

April 3, 1973

[Redacted]

EX-111 REC-35 100-22322 22

[Redacted] APR 1973

CORR
Dear Mr. [Name]

Your letter was received on April 9th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. (Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.)
June 20, 1973

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

Gentlemen:

I would like to know if any microfilm or other reproductions of Nikola Tesla's notes and papers exist at your office. Tesla was a famous scientist who died in New York City. The Federal Bureau of Investigation entered his safe shortly after this to remove his papers for examination for the war effort. After the war the papers were offered to any group that would start a museum to house them. No one accepted and the papers were finally sent to the Tesla Museum in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, sometime in the early 1950's, possibly just before 1954. Tesla was the inventor of all ac motors and the polyphase system, as well as all fluorescent and neon lamps. He was a major pioneer in the early days of radio and discovered many of the early principles of radar. He declined nomination of a Nobel Prize. He was a naturalized citizen of America and said he valued his citizenship papers above all his awards and possessions. Despite this, all his papers were sent to another nation.

I would like to examine some of his papers from 1899 and later without having to fly to Yugoslavia. I have only seen a condensed copy of his research from Colorado Springs, but am unable to obtain copies. The principles and equipment are rather out-of-date and well-known, but still useful in my research.

I would greatly appreciate help in this matter.

P.S. Tesla died in January of 1943 and shortly after the papers were removed from his safe. The original copies of these papers were sent abroad prior to 1954, as I believe it was in that year the Yugoslavs founded the Tesla Museum (not to be confused with the Tesla Institute).
Dear [Name]:

Your letter was received on June 25th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Ruckelshaus

William D. Ruckelshaus
Acting Director

NOTE: Bufiles indicate one letter to correspondent dated 4-15-66 in reply to his inquiry regarding the Air Force's Project Blue Book and UFO sightings. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department that did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.

MAIL ROOM TELETYPING UNIT
November 10, 1975

Dear [Redacted]:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request forwarded to the FBI by the Department of Justice on October 22nd.

In response to your request for files pertaining to Nikola Tesla, please be advised that in order to preserve the privacy of an individual who may be a subject of a similar inquiry, it has been necessary for the FBI to maintain the practice of not indicating whether we do or do not have such information in our files.

If you can provide notarized authorization from Mr. Tesla's next of kin directing us to release to you any information our files may contain concerning him, we shall thereafter search our files and advise you accordingly.

Since we have not conducted a search of our files, please do not infer that we do or do not have the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

[Redacted]
Mr. Clarence Kelly
Director
F.B.I.
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Mr. Allen and Mr. Ruchlehaus, former acting Director of the FBI, contacted me in 1973 regarding the unavailability of American microfilm records of Nikola Tesla's unpublished diary (now in the Belgrade museum, arranged by month per folder).

At the time I discounted the possibility that these unpublished discoveries had military significance. But because of experiments now under way at Hill AFB, I now suspect such military applications exist and feel it imperative that you be notified, particularly in view of the fact that the Soviets have primary access to the entire collection.

Two photos of each page exist.

After Tesla's death, scientists from the Navy and OSS performed a cursory examination of the diary and notes, which if my memory serves me correctly, was one month long, hardly enough time to decipher Tesla's torturous handwriting. Though Tesla wrote in English, his penmanship was small, blurred, and as difficult to translate as a foreign language.

According to the museum director (1971), the Soviets had made copies of some portions, but not the Colorado Springs diary, which numbers 500 pages, 20 that directly pertain to ball lightning, and 20 or so relevant to the equipment construction. (We copied the most significant portions, but feel more exists.)
First, Tesla claimed that the lightning balls (which destroyed his equipment) could be used to destroy aircraft. I have talked to AF personnel -- such as [redacted] who saw one inside his plane in flight -- and found AF personnel fear these "rf balls," as they call them.

Second, it is a suspicion of mine that ball lightning, if injected with lithium, could produce a cheap fusion bomb.

Third -- and this may be no more than a suspicion -- the propulsion mode of ball lightning involves electro-gravitic interaction, by which means air vehicles of revolutionary configuration may be constructed. There are no presently-known laws of physics that can account for the propulsion (400 mph or so when following an airliner). Other hitherto unsuspected applications may exist.

None of these applications were the goal of Project Tesla, which centered on producing ball lightning as Tesla did and studying it as a plasma confinement technique for fusion reactors. Incidentally, Tesla's claim to setting up standing waves on the earth's surface (wireless power) was erroneous and involved techniques similar to Project Sanguine, that is, using the earth's atmosphere as a waveguide ([redacted] is aware of our research).

Cordially,

P.S. By a copy of this letter, along with the enclosures, I am notifying the C.I.A.

Enclosures: 2
Fusion energy: will experiments in ball lightning provide the key?

Paul Snigler, Associate Editor

In the vast and empty hangar where the first atomic bomb was assembled, a man-made lightning storm is now being unleashed. The voltages of these lightning bolts—20 million volts—are the highest discharge voltages ever produced by man.

Project Tesla, headed by Robert K. Golka and Dr. Robert W. Bass, is an attempt to artificially duplicate one of nature's rarest and most terrifying phenomena—ball lightning. The experiments are based upon the unpublished notes of Nikola Tesla, who, in 1899 at his Colorado Springs laboratory, used a secret magnifying transmitter to produce 1.5-in. lightning balls that floated for 30 sec.

The energy surplus

Many physicists, including the eminent Dr. James Tuck, founder of the U.S. fusion program, believe that the lightning ball holds the key to a fantastic, cheap and endless energy source—fusion power, or the energy source used by the stars and sun. The fuel is deuterium, or heavy water, that can be inexpensively extracted from ocean water to provide mankind.

Highest voltage continuously oscillating damped-wave lightning generator (ever produced by mankind) creates a current of 1100A at 12.5 MV! Subsequent improvements raised this to a peak current of 2200A at 20 MV. Further improvements could conceivably produce bolts that exceed natural lightning (100 MV).
with millions of years of...

Unfortunately, progress in
druction research, which has
centered on magnetic confine-
ment and laser implosions, has
been frustratingly slow and full
of unpleasant surprises; and
scientists warn that success
could be as far off as four
decades! But if these promising
experiments under way at Wen-
dover, UT, are successful, they
unexpected confinement
technique could unleash this
energy source.

In search of nature's secrets...

Ball lightning, a glowing
sphere of red, orange or yellow
plasma, often materializes dur-
ing lightning storms and floats
about, often against a strong
wind. The ball may bounce
along the floor and, on occa-
sion, the sphere will "slip"
through glass without breaking
it. (The author recently investi-
gated one such case in a
hospital, in which the lights
were damaged.) At times it
materializes inside or even
outside aircraft in flight, seem-
ingly impervious to deformation
from the wind force.

Witnesses of ball lightning
have included such notables as
Niels Bohr and Victor Weiss-
kopf, the Director of the MIT
Physics Department. Another
witness was Secretary of State
Dean Acheson, who reported
seeing it cross the breakfast
table aboard the presidential
plane.

The accidental formation of
ball lightning has been observed
about once per year for the past
decade inside building 985 at Hill
AF Missile Radiographic Facility,
UT. The volleyball-size fireballs
drop out of the space adjacent to
the high voltage supply of the 25
MeV linear accelerator.

The ball of blue fire floats
down to the floor, rolls around
randomly and then rises again to
the power-supply area where it
dissipates without detectable
damage. Despite troubleshoot-
ing, no explanation can be
found for this occurrence.

On one occasion, lightning
struck the building—a large
concrete structure with a 60-ft.
ceiling inside—and, simultane-
ously, an intense sphere of fire
the size of a tennis ball formed
above the conduit on the wall at
my shoulder level. It moved
along the wall for a distance of
some 30 ft., floated out and
around the neck and shoulders
of a person standing near the
wall, moved back to the wall and
continued along for several feet
until it intercepted a duplex
outlet on the conduit. At this time
the ball exploded, causing elec-
trical damage throughout.

A new state of matter?

No presently known laws of
physics can account for the
stability and bouncing of fire-
balls unless it includes surface
tension. This hitherto unobs-
served state of matter is a new
concept, since plasmas have
never previously exhibited such
strong surface tension. Also,
presently known laws cannot
account for the propulsion.

Project Tesla has developed a
rigorous mathematical model of
the lightning ball's absolute,
asymptotic, fluid-dynamical sta-
bility. Initial computer studies
indicated a density range of
$10^9-10^{14}$ cm$^{-3}$, with a tempera-
ture of $10^{13}-10^{14}$ °K—or
seven times hotter than the
sun!}
When Tesla was talking as a scientist he was opposed to wars on moral, economic and all practical and theoretical grounds. But, like most scientists, when he stopped thinking as a scientist and let his emotions rule his thoughts, he found exceptions in which he felt some wars and situations were justifiable. As a scientist he was unwilling to have the discoveries of scientists applied to the purposes of war makers, but when the emotional phase of his nature took the ruling position he was then willing to apply his genius to devising measures that would prevent wars by supplying protective devices.

This attitude is exemplified in the following statement which he prepared in the twenties but did not publish: "At present many of the ablest minds are trying to devise expedients for preventing a repetition of the awful conflict which is only theoretically ended and the duration and main issues of which I correctly predicted in an article printed in the Sun of December 20, 1914. The League is not a remedy but, on the contrary, in the opinion of a number of competent men, may bring about results just the opposite. It is particularly regrettable that a punitive policy was adopted in framing the terms of peace because a few years hence it will be possible for nations to fight without armies, ships or guns, by weapons far more terrible, to the destructive action and range of which there is virtually no limit. Any city at any distance whatsoever from the enemy can be destroyed by him and no power on earth can stop him from doing so. If we want to avert an impending calendron and a state of things which may transform this globe into an inferno, we should push the development of flying machines and wireless transmission of energy without an instant's delay and with all the power and resources of the nation."

Tesla saw preventative possibilities in his new invention which embodied "death ray" characteristics and which was made several years after the foregoing statement was written. He saw it providing a curtain of protection which any country, no matter how small, could use as a protection against invasion. While he might offer it as a defensive weapon, however, there would be nothing to stop military men from using it as a weapon of offense.

While I did not know the nature of Tesla's plan I was convinced that it did embody many discoveries that would be of commercial value, and these were the angles he should seek to develop. I felt that if he could be induced to develop some minor phase of his work that would have immediate commercial use he could derive an income from it which would enable him to proceed with his more elaborate plans. To this end I sought to gain some insight into his thoughts, that would enable me to get a practical plan in operation. This was no secret to Tesla and he successfully parried every thrust I made.

The clearest conception I got, and that was largely from scattered remarks, and by making deductions from them, concerned a possible manner in which one phase of his curtain of protection might operate. This was a "war" angle and as such it did not interest..."
A fire ball is a strange phenomenon associated with lightning. Some of the energy of the lightning stroke appears to become locked into a ball shaped structure which may be of any size from a couple of inches to a foot in diameter. It looks like a perfect sphere, brightly incandescent and floats like a bubble, being easily carried by air currents. They may last for a short time, from a fraction of a second to many seconds. In this interval, during which they stay fairly close to the ground, they may come close to many objects without damaging them or being damaged by them. Suddenly, for no known reason, the ball explodes doing as much damage as a bomb, if close to structures, and no damage if in the open.

The fire ball looked to me like a gigantically enlarged model of the tiny electron, one of the building blocks of matter, which acts as if it were just a spherical area of space in which an amount of energy was crystallized to give it structure. I felt that if it were possible to discover how a large amount of energy was stored in this fairy bubble structure of a fire ball a new insight might be gained into the structure of the electron and other fundamental particles of matter. Also this method of storing energy could be applied to a thousand useful purposes.

When I approached Tesla with pleas along this line to develop this possible phase of his discovery he would evade direct reply by indulging in a, not always, tolerant lecture on my gullibility in believing theories about the complex structure of the atom. While he had in earlier years discussed some of his experiences with fire balls in his laboratory at Colorado Springs and explained his theory of their formation, he would not in the later years permit himself to be drawn into a discussion of them as a possible part of his system. This, of course, made me suspicious that the clue was "not" but I could be completely wrong in my conclusions. Tesla was very quick in detecting my technique when I sought to narrow down a field by trying to get him to deny statements when he was adamant to direct questions.

Tesla became familiar with the destructive characteristics of fire balls in his experiments at Colorado Springs in 1899. He produced them quite by accident and saw them, more than once, explode and shatter his tall mast and also destroy apparatus within his laboratory. The destructive action accompanying the disintegration of a fire ball, he declared, takes place with inconceivable violence.

He studied the process by which they were produced, not because he wanted to produce them but in order to eliminate the conditions in which they were created. It is not pleasant, he related, to have a fire ball explode in your vicinity for they will destroy anything they come in contact with.

It will be necessary to reconstruct his statements from very fragmentary notes and a long distance memory.
"Parasite oscillations, or circuits, within the main circuit were a source of danger from this cause. Points of resistance in the main circuit could result in minor oscillating circuits between terminals or between two points of resistance and these minor circuits would have a very much higher period of oscillation than the main circuit and could be set into oscillation by the main current of lower frequency.

"Even when the principal oscillating circuit was adjusted for the greatest efficiency of operation by the diminution of all sources of losses the fire balls continued to occur but these were due to stray high frequency charges from random earth currents.

"From these experiences it became apparent that the fire balls resulted from the interaction of two frequencies, a stray higher frequency wave imposed on the lower frequency free oscillation of the main circuit.

"As the free oscillation of the circuit builds up from the zero point to the quarter wave length node it passes through various rates of change. In a current of shorter wavelength the rates of change will be steeper. When the two currents react on each other the resultant complex will contain a wave in which there is an extremely steep rate of change, and for the briefest instant currents may move at a tremendous rate, at the rate of millions of horsepower.

"This condition acts as a trigger which may cause the total energy of the powerful longer wave to be discharged in an infinitesimally small interval of time and at a proportionately tremendously great rate of energy movement which cannot confine itself to the metal circuit and is released into surrounding space with inconceivable violence."

It is but a step, from learning how a high frequency current can explosively discharge a lower frequency current, to using the principle to design a system in which these explosions can be produced by intent. The following process appears a possible one but no evidence is available that it is the one Tesla evolved: An oscillator, such as he used to send power wirelessly around the earth at Colorado Springs, is set in operation at a frequency to which a given warship is resonant. The complex structure of a ship would provide a great number of spots in which electrical oscillations will be set up of a much higher frequency than those coursing through the ship as a whole. These parasitic currents will react on the main current causing the production of fireballs which by their explosions will destroy the ship, even more effectively than the explosion of the magazine which would also take place. A second oscillator may be used to transmit the shorter wavelength current.

Somewhat later I learned the reason for Tesla's reticence to discuss details. This came shortly after Stanley Baldwin replaced Neville Chamberlin as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Tesla revealed that he had carried on negotiations with Prime Minister Chamberlin for the sale of his ray system to Great Britain for £30,000,000 on the basis of his presentation that the device would provide complete protection for the British Isles against any enemy approaching by sea or air, and would provide an
offensive weapon to which there was no defense. He was convinced, he declared, of the necessity of Mr. Chamberlain's intent to adopt the device, it would have prevented the outbreak of the then threatening war, and would have made possible the continuation under the duress which this weapon would make possible — of the working agreement involving France, Germany and Britain to maintain the status quo in Europe. When Chamberlain failed, at the Munich conference, to retain this state of European equilibrium it was necessary to get rid of Chamberlain and install a new Prime Minister who could make the effort to shift one corner of the triangle from Germany to Russia. Baldwin found no virtue in Tesla's plan and preemtorily ended the negotiations.

Tesla was greatly disappointed by the collapse of his negotiations with the British Government. With it there collapsed his hopes of providing a demonstration of his most recent, and, what he considered, his most important discoveries. He did not, however, dwell on the subject; beyond the single conversation he did not mention the matter again, he did not get another chance to finance the demonstration of these discoveries.

During the period in which the negotiations were being carried on, Tesla declared, efforts had been made to steal the invention. His room had been entered and his papers examined but the thieves, or spies, left empty handed. There was no danger, he said, that his invention could be stolen for he had at no time committed any part of it to paper. He could trust his memory to preserve every fine detail of his investigations. This was true, he said, of all of his later major discoveries.

The nature of his system makes little difference now; he has gone and has taken it with him. Perhaps, if there is any communication from beyond the veil that separates this life from whatever exists hereafter, Tesla may look down upon earth's struggling mortals and find some way of dropping a hint concerning what he accomplished; but, if the situation is such that this cannot take place, then we must await until the human race produces another Tesla.
Dear [Redacted]:

Thank you for your letter of April 20th, with enclosures. It was certainly most thoughtful of you to furnish us this information, and your interest and courtesy are indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufiles indicate limited correspondence with last outgoing 6-27-73, in reply to his request concerning papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla. Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death in 1943, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles indicated the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice did so. Bufile 100-2237-23.
United States Senate

To ensure proper handling please return all correspondence TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Respectfully referred to:

FBI

Please respond to the attached inquiry in duplicate and return the enclosure. Thank you for your cooperation.

U.S.S.

ENCLOSURE
Dear Sir,

I am a substitute in the Milwaukee Public School System. I do scientific experiments in high voltage electricity. I have studied all the available writings of the dead genius Nikola Tesla (1856 - January 7, 1943).

When Nikola Tesla died, the Federal Bureau of Investigation came and opened the safe in his room and took the papers it contained, to examine them.
for a reported secret invention of possible use in II W.I.

As a citizen and a scientist I would like to study these unpublished papers with hope of finding new ideas into producing an alternate source of energy. Something that Nikola Tesla knew about and because of his unfortunate financial status was not able to develop into a working model.

Please help.

With love in The Co.

(Wil)
June 23, 1976

Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

This will respond to your communication of June 16th enclosing the letter of

The effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

A copy of your communication and of this reply are being referred to the Department of Justice and the enclosure to your communication is being returned as requested.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Enclosure
1 - Assistant Attorney General - Enclosures (2)
   Civil Division
1 - Milwaukee - Enclosures (2)
1 - Office of Congressional Affairs - Enclosures (2)
NOTE: This response is consistent with past responses to inquiries of a similar nature. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that the Office of Alien Property took possession of Dr. Tesla's papers following his death.
Dear Mr. Webster:

I am writing this letter in regard to some papers you have in your possession by Nikola Tesla.

I have, for some time now, been studying the works of Mr. Tesla and I am involved in the research and further development of his efforts. I have in my possession a copy of almost everything that was ever written by him.

However, I have read that on the day following his death (he died the night of January 7th, 1943, as probably January 8th, 1943, the Federal Bureau of Investigation went to where Mr. Tesla had been staying—the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, New York—and collected all notes and papers that he had with him there. To further my studies and hopefully complete them, it would be helpfully appreciated if you would send me a copy of all the notes, papers, books, drawings, etc., that were found there.

Thank you,

July 26, 1979
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Bresson

FROM: (redacted)

DATE: 2/25/80

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT DISCLOSURE REGARDING DR. NIKOLA TESLA

PURPOSE:

To reduce time spent on handling of requests for information on captioned subject and to promote uniformity of disclosure.

DETAILS:

A search of FBIHQ central records indices reflects that Dr. Nikola Tesla is carried as the subject of Bufile 100-2237. Virtually all information in this file is inquiry-type correspondence. For purposes of FOIA releases, copies of this material have not been made and requesters have been so advised. Copies of the remaining material in the file totalling 29 pages, however, has been processed for disclosure. Numerous requesters have sought information relating to Dr. Tesla under the FOIA. Therefore, it is recommended that the disclosure documents maintained in Bufile 190-16504-4 be considered the preprocessed release appropriate for responses by the Initial Processing Unit for any further requests for information on this subject.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Initial Processing Unit, FOIPA Branch, Records Management Division, add captioned case to their list of preprocessed cases and handle any future requests for such information.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
August 6, 1979

Dear [Dear blank]

Your recent letter requesting information concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla has been received.

The effects of Dr. Tesla were imputed, after his death, by the Office of the Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. We have no preprinted material available for public distribution regarding Dr. Tesla. However, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552), requests have been made in the past regarding your topic and there may be documents available to you under Title 28—Code of Federal Regulations.

If you are interested in seeking such documents under the Freedom of Information Act, you should make a separate inquiry, clearly marking the envelope and letter as a Freedom of Information Act request, and direct it to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20535. In the letter you must request documents regarding the specific topic of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

William L. Bailey
Assistant Director

[Address]

Enclosure

(This correspondence response may engender a future FOIA inquiry.)

NOTE: Based upon available information, correspondent is not identifiable in files.

[Address]
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Papers Recovered on the Death of Nicola Tesla (U)

(U) We understand that the FBI may have possession of a number of papers found after the death of Nicola Tesla in 1943. Nicola Tesla was a brilliant electrical engineer (i.e. the Tesla Coil) who was a pioneer in various aspects of electrical transmission phenomena.

(C) We believe that certain of Tesla's papers may contain basic principles which would be of considerable value to certain ongoing research within the DoD. It would be very helpful to have access to his papers.

(U) Since we have really no idea of the possible volume of these papers, we would be happy to provide a researcher who could assist you in reducing the magnitude of the search. If there are further questions, I am the point of contact within the DoD and can be reached at 695-6364 or 695-7417.

Allan J. MacLaren
LtColonel, USAF
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems

FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-8-93 BY 2703
FOIPA No. 356-468
362,001
100-2237-33

Per DoD letter dated 2-29-93
with Enclosures 1 and 2
All DoD Info is unclassified
DoD referenced FOIPA #0
356-468 and
362,001
4/8/93 9803

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-14-93 BY S.line

Per DoD letter dated 3-14-93

DECLASSIFIED BY 10-49
ON 1-27-73
Per Army Letter 5-25-87
291860

50 MAR 30 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: DUSDRE/S&SS
Declassify on: February 1987

124
March 10, 1941

Dear Colonel MacLaren:

Your memorandum of February 9 requesting access to the scientific papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla which might be in our files has been referred to my office for reply.

A preliminary review of our files indicates that the FBI did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings following his death in New York City in January, 1943. His papers were examined by representatives of the Office of Alien Property, the Navy Department and the Office of Scientific Research and Development. In February, 1943, the papers apparently were released to Mr. Sava K. Kovacic, Dr. Tesla's nephew and the administrator of his estate. Nick Kovacic's address at that time was 15 Central Park South, New York, New York.

A complete search of our indices is being made to determine if we have any information that might be useful to you. You will be notified of the results of this search at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

Roger F. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

[Postmark: MAR 30 1981]
March 23, 1941

Lt. Col. A. J. Haclaren
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems
Office of the Under Secretary
of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Colonel Haclaren:

A complete search of our retrievable files concerning Dr. Tesla shows that all notes and material in his immediate possession at the time of his death on January 7, 1943, were placed in the custody of the Alien Property Custodian under seal by the United States Government. These materials have never been in the care or custody of the FBI.

On January 26 and 27, 1943, Federal authorities made a thorough review of the effects of Dr. Tesla to determine if any ideas of significant value to the United States war effort could be found. His effects were examined at the Manhattan Warehouse and Storage Company at 52nd and 7th Avenue, New York, New York, where they apparently were taken after his death. Participation in this examination were representatives from the New York and Washington Offices of the Alien Property Custodian, the Office of Scientific Research and Development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and United States Naval Research. The FBI did not participate in this examination. (65-47953 section 1)

It was the considered opinion of a spokesman of those examiners "that there exist among Dr. Tesla's papers and possessions no scientific notes, descriptions of hitherto unrevealed methods or devices, or actual apparatus which could be of significant value to this country or which would constitute a hazard in unfriendly hands." There was thought to be no technical or military reason why further custody of the property should be retained. However, our files indicate that certain papers, which were regarded as typical of Nikola Tesla's writings and thoughts in the period of 1938 and 1942, were released for the purpose of transfer to the office of the Alien Property Custodian. (65-47953 section 1)
Col. A. J. MacLaran

A memo dated October 17, 1945, from our New York Office said that at that time Dr. Tesla's effects remained at the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in some 75 packing boxes and trunks under seal by the New York Department of Taxation. The rental for this storage, approximately $15 per month, was being paid by Charlotte Kuzar, 134 East 63rd Street, New York, New York, who was listed as an agent for Sava Kosanovich, Dr. Tesla's nephew and administrator of his estate. (65-47953-14)

On October 26, 1945, a young scientist who had been Tesla's protege called in person at our New York Field Office. With him were two men from a research development unit at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. These men carried a letter signed by Tesla, requesting that the FBI allow the bearers of the latter access to the effects of Nikola Tesla. (65-47953-15)

It was explained to the men that the FBI had no jurisdiction over Tesla's effects, and they were referred to the Office of the Alien Property Custodian. Bureau files do not indicate whether the men ever examined Tesla's belongings. (65-47953-15)

The Tesla effects remained in rooms 50 and 52 of the Manhattan Storage Company. In the 1950s, FBI Agents were told by company management that the only recorded visit had been made by "Federal authorities" in January, 1943. Recalled that the men had taken numerous photographs. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of the papers of the deceased. (65-47953-27)

Our files do not reflect any pertinent information on the Tesla materials since that date. Their current whereabouts or condition are not reflected in our files.

For further information regarding this matter, you may wish to contact the Office of the Alien Property Custodian and the other Federal agencies mentioned above.

I hope that we have been of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Roger E. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

(CONTINUED - OVER)
NOTE: On February 9, 1981, Col. NaClaram wrote to us inquiring about the scientific papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla. In a return letter of March 9, we informed him that a thorough review of our files would be made in search of the information he requested. This was done and he is being informed of the results. Tesla's papers have been the subject of numerous inquiries by various individuals and organizations since his death. FBI received over 20 FOIA requests on this matter during the period 1973-1980. Matter coordinated with FOIA Section, RMD.
Mr. Roger S. Young  
Assistant Director in Charge  
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Young,

Thank you very much for your letters of March 10 and March 20, 1981, in response to our request re Dr. Tesla. We very much appreciate the effort that must have gone into this. On behalf of the Deputy Under Secretary (Strategic and Space Systems), Dr. S. L. Zelberg, I would like to thank you and the people who spent their time searching out the relevant data.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Allan J. MacLaren  
Colonel, USAF  
Military Assistant  
Strategic and Space Systems

Per Doc. letter dated 3/29/93  
With Enclosures 1 and 2  
ALL DOD info. is unclassified.  
DOD referenced FOO/PA #s 356, 608 and 362, 001  
4/8/93 9803 67C

No acknowledgment necessary  
10 French  
Vines  

Director of the FBI  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

While attending college, I came across an article about the electrical genius, Nicolai Tesla. Mr. Tesla was an electrical genius with such peers as EDISON and WESTINGHOUSE. Tesla designed the basic generator and was the first man to introduce alternating current to the people. The article, written in an underground SanFrancisco newspaper, stated that Tesla also worked with electromagnetic waves and supposedly built a plant that could harness the electromagnetic waves out of the earth's atmosphere sufficiently enough to use them as a source of electricity. The article stated that Tesla built such a plant and lit up a city street 150 miles away by sending the electromagnetism via radio waves. This method is presently being used in electronic warfare. After that, the article stated that the FBI confiscated his plans and buried them in your archives. Their reasoning was that such a free form of energy would knock out a big chunk of the oil, coal, and nuclear forms of energy and their contributions to the economy (money for research and employment). All I want to know is if there is any truth to this story and if so what was the FBI's reasons and when are the archives opened again so that Tesla's work could come to light again. Now bear in mind that this man was an electrical genius and even had a unit of electrical measure named after him. If he did figure out a way to utilize the earth's electromagnetic waves then I believe that we are ready to gradually phase out our dependence on oil, ease the volatile tension in the Middle East and put all that money presently going to the Arabs into
space research, joint international research and deep-sea research to help solve our population problem. I am talking about huge sums of money being released that could speed up the experts present projected times of producing significant gains in these still relatively new fields.

You could at least take the time to check out what I am saying and judge for yourself whether or not the archives should be opened now to put the world back on a more secure heading.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Date]
August 7, 1981

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Judge Webster has referred your letter of July 21st to me for a reply. A check of our files indicates Dr. Nikola Tesla's effects were impounded after his death by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. While your interest is indeed appreciated, the FBI is unable to answer your questions as we did not participate in the handling or have anything to do with the storage of Dr. Tesla's belongings.

To be as helpful as possible, I am forwarding a copy of this communication to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

NOTE: [Name is not identifiable in Bufiles. Dr. Tesla died on 1/7/43 and we have received much correspondence regarding his belongings which were impounded by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.]

MAIL ROOM 217

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This communication is classified "Secret" in its entirety.

Re telephone call of SA, Cincinnati Division, to Supervisor FBIHQ, on 8/11/83.

Enclosed for the Bureau and New York is one copy each of pertinent pages from the 1981 book titled "Tesla: Man Out of Time" by Margaret Cheney, with important passages underlined.

For information of Bureau and New York, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) and also at WPAFB, have both been in contact with SA at the Dayton, Ohio RA regarding possible FBI

SECRET

Classified by: 8262
Declassify on: OADR

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - New York (Enc. 1)
2 - Cincinnati

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