

NA - 10/21/62
[redacted] b7c

FBI

b7c

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Date: 10/19/62

PLAIN TEXT

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (76-26295)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (76-2887)

RE: ALCOS b7c

EDGE
[redacted] b7c

Rerep SA [redacted] 10/10/62, San Francisco.

[redacted] and [redacted] aboard SS NOREFJELL, a Norwegian ship under FURNESS WITBY AND COMPANY, LTD., Pier 38, San Francisco, Calif., when leaving on extended freighter run outside United States on August 8, 1962, mentioned to [redacted] San Francisco Bar Pilot, that they had seen a body floating in Pacific Ocean on July 17, 1962, some twenty miles north-west of Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco. At the time body seen, they were proceeding to Canada and New Zealand and did not stop to report same. They made note in ship's log book, but did not mention it until August 8, 1962, when they had returned to United States and were again leaving on another extended voyage. These individuals interviewed upon their return from New Zealand after other foreign port stops.

[redacted] states that between 5:45PM and 6:00PM, on July 17, 1962, the SS NOREFJELL was proceeding away from the United States on a freighter trip. About twenty miles west by north-west of the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge, he noticed something bobbing in the water. He took the ship's binoculars and observed that it was a body, evidently floating face downward, with hands and feet dangling down into the water. He could see the rump of the body clearly, however, from the angle, he could not see the upper portion of the body. He stated that the body was clothed in dirty white appearing full length trousers. He immediately gave the binoculars to [redacted] who was standing on the deck with him, and [redacted] also identified it as a drowned body.

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REC-976-26295-154

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - San Francisco

OCT 22 1962

Approved: FLP/ang
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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[REDACTED] upon interview, gave same description of body and the trousers as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that they did not have radio communication on United States channels and in the absence of any boat in that area, they continued on their journey without mentioning the matter.

[REDACTED] stated that when they next arrived in the United States about August 7 or 8, 1962, he happened to mention this to a San Francisco Bar Pilot.

Portions of trousers similar to that worn by the escapees were shown to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They stated they were aware the blue-white type prison garment bleaches in salt water and sun and could become almost white. They stated that the body they saw floating could have had prison garb trousers on it. However, they did not make a close enough inspection to make any determination.

[REDACTED] Coroner for San Francisco City and County, advised that it is possible that the body seen floating on July 17, 1962, some five weeks after the prisoners escaped, could be one of the escapees. [REDACTED] stated that it would indeed be remote if any body would float after a two month period, however, this reported incident was well under that more-or-less time limit.

Investigations U. S. Coast Guard, San Francisco, who initially furnished this office with information indicating that men on the Norwegian ship had seen a floating body, advised that a check of their files concerning individuals drowned in the San Francisco Bay area during the pertinent period had been made. They had no missing body dressed as described by the Norwegian men. In addition, records of the California Highway Patrol concerning suicides from the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge listed no missing body clothed in white-appearing trousers during the pertinent period.

The above is for the Bureau's information.

SUBJECTS AT LARGE ARE ALL CONVICTED BANK ROBBERS AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.