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U. S. ATTORNEY

Mr. Friedman
1962 MAR 23 PM 3:33

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Resumé of the Inquiry

Re: Robert Parris Moses

Conscientious Objector

Registrant was born in New York City on January 23, 1935. His parents were members of the Baptist Church and the registrant formerly attended that church but claims membership in no religious organization.

The records of Stuyvesant High School in New York City show that the registrant attended there from September 1945 until his graduation in June 1952 and was rated 320 in a class of 750; that only a select group of students are taken at that high school and that he rated as very intelligent with outstanding personality and character; that he was president of his senior class and also received a scholarship award. A teacher in this school recalled the registrant as being quiet, reserved, soft spoken and a good athlete. He could not comment on the registrant's claim. The records of Hamilton College, Clinton, New York show that the registrant attended there from September 1952 until his graduation in June 1956 with an A. B. degree and attaining an 85 percent average; that he majored in philosophy and had been active in baseball and basketball, was a member of the Honor Court in his junior year and was basketball captain and class vice president in his senior year; that he was granted a \$900 scholarship and given opportunity to earn \$200

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additional by employment in the Commons. An official of this college recalled the registrant as a fine student, reputable, capable and conscientious; that he knew nothing of registrant's feeling toward military service but he would not be surprised if the registrant held conscientious-objector beliefs because of his quiet manner; that he had read of the registrant's activity with the Freedom Riders in the south. An instructor in this school advised that he considered the registrant to be a reputable, capable and loyal American; that he did not have any indication that the registrant either favored or opposed military service; that he believed him sincere and honest and therefore probably possessed of the convictions on military service he claimed to have. The records of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts show that the registrant was awarded a Masters of Arts degree in June 1957 by the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; that he majored in philosophy at Harvard from September 1956 to March 1958 when he withdrew with a B average; that his records were incomplete and he failed a preliminary examination for a Doctor of Philosophy degree in May 1957. An instructor in this university who is a member of the Society of Friends advised that he knew the registrant to be interested in the philosophy of pacifism and nonviolence and he believed the registrant would be sincere in his conscientious objection.

The records of the New York University Medical Center in New York City show that the registrant worked there part time in the library from January 1951 to September 1952, from June 1953 to July 31, 1953, for a couple of days in September 1953, from December 22 to December 30, 1953 and from June to September 1954. Representatives of the library advised that the registrant was outstanding with high ideals and excellent character; that they had not discussed military service or religion with him but believed he would be sincere in his claim.

The records of Hamilton College, Clinton, New York show that the registrant worked there as a waiter in the Commons or cafeteria part time from September 1952 until June 1955. The records of the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania show that the registrant was assigned to an overseas work camp in France during the summer of 1955 and to an overseas work camp and seminar in Japan during the summer of 1956 and there was nothing unfavorable about him in the records. A secretary of the committee advised that the registrant was sociable, patient and conscientious and that his work habits and attitude were good; that he was respected by his associates and gave natural leadership. An employer of the dining hall, Harvard Business School advised that the registrant worked there two nights a week as a night grill attendant from November 1956 to May 1957. An official of the Society of Friends at Cambridge, Massachusetts advised that the registrant contacted him for employment and that he had done maintenance work at the meeting house from October 1957 to March 1958; that he had attended Friends meetings two or three times a month but was not an enrolled member. He believed registrant to be of good character and a sincere conscientious objector. Another member of this organization advised that the registrant was of good character and habits, sympathetic to the Friends doctrine of pacifism and sincere in his claim. A representative of a childrens school on West 60th Street, New York City advised that the registrant was hired to work with the Negro students who did not want to study for a short time early in 1958 and that he was intelligent, quiet, and sincere and she would believe him sincere in his claim. A representative of Horace Mann School advised that the registrant had taught mathematics at that school during the school years from 1958 to 1961 and was an excellent teacher; that he resigned to go south and help his race get registered so that they could vote and that he had been arrested in Mississippi in October 1961. She believed he would be sincere in his claim. Individuals

connected with the Greenville Industrial College, Greenville, Mississippi advised that the registrant has never been employed by that school. A representative of this school advised that the registrant was interviewed in June 1961 as an individual who could fill the position of a mathematics teacher; that he understood the registrant was about to be drafted and the only way he could avoid the draft was by being employed as a teacher in the field of religious education; that he understood that the registrant was being paid by the government in some way and that he was to receive no pay for teaching in that school; that the registrant had been offered a position in a letter sent to New York but the registrant never showed up to teach; that the registrant made no objection to military service and made no statement indicating conscientious objection. A representative of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Atlanta, Georgia advised that he has known the registrant since July 1961 and that he is of good character, sincere in his beliefs and considered a genius by his associates; that he abhors violence and his work with the SNCC is an example of the extent to which he will go to avoid violence; that he has been beaten three times during demonstrations in Mississippi and while being beaten will look up and say "Forgive them"; that the registrant has never discussed conscientious objection with him but he believed registrant to be conscientiously opposed to service in the Armed Forces; that the registrant has donated his time to the organization and his only compensation has been room and board; that the SNCC does not have a charter and the by-laws of the organization have not been written but the purpose was stated at their Raleigh conference as assuming a philosophical or religious ideal of non-violence from Judaic-Christian traditions seeking a social order of justice, permeated by love. Another representative of this organization advised that the registrant has been associated with that committee since July 1961; that he came to Atlanta in the summer of 1960 to aid the Negro race and had a Masters degree in Philosophy;

that he never made any statement about serving in the Armed Forces but believed in nonviolence as a way of life. He is certain that the registrant is sincere in his claim.

An associate of the registrant in his work with the SNCC advised that he has worked with the registrant at McComb, Mississippi and that the registrant is quiet, reserved and dynamic; that he is nonviolent in principle and remains calm in heated discussions; that at the time he was beaten by a mob in McComb he offered no resistance; that he stayed in jail in McComb because he did not want other young coordinators to stay in jail alone; that the registrant had told him that he felt fear but could not let himself be overcome by fear; that he never mentioned anything about being a conscientious objector. He believed registrant would be sincere in his claim. Another associate of the registrant who is a field secretary of the SNCC advised that the registrant is Assistant Director of Voter Registration and that he worked with the registrant for two and one half months at McComb until he was assigned to a different matter in September 1961; that the registrant was arrested at McComb in connection with a demonstration under the auspices of the SNCC and in view of the high moral traits the registrant displayed he had no reason to question the registrant's conscientious-objector claim.

A neighbor of the registrant and his family on West 151st Street, New York City advised that the family were fine neighbors and the children well behaved; that the family moved in 1958 when the mother died and he has not seen them since; that the registrant's grandfather was a minister but he did not believe the registrant was a member of any church; that the registrant's father worked at an Armory in New York City and he could not comment on the registrant's claim. Another neighbor in New York City advised that the registrant's grandfather was a Baptist minister and she believed the registrant's parents were also Baptists; that she knew of no church the registrant attended although he talked a great deal

about religion and was always against violence and war; that he had two brothers who had had military service. She believed he would be sincere in his conscientious objection. An aunt of the registrant in New York City advised that the registrant used to stay with her occasionally, was never in trouble and has a wonderful outlook on life. She had not discussed religion or military service with him and could not comment on his claim. A neighbor in New York who has known the registrant all the registrant's life advised that the registrant belonged to no church that she knew of but believed he had studied religion at Hamilton College; that she had never discussed religion with him and could not comment on his claim. A neighbor of the registrant on 139th Street, New York City advised that he had known the registrant since August 1960 and believed him to be a good quiet intelligent tenant; that he had not discussed religion or military service with him and could not comment on his claim. A neighbor on 82nd Street, New York City advised that he met the registrant at a folk dance camp in Maine in the spring of 1960 and that the registrant resided on 82nd Street with a teacher in the down town community school from October 1960 to July 1961; that the registrant had mentioned that he was a conscientious objector and he did not know the registrant's reasons for his stand but believed him to be sincere in everything he did; that the registrant was in Mississippi in the summer of 1960 and again in the summer of 1961 when he was arrested. He believed registrant to be sincere in his conscientious-objector claim. A second grade teacher at the down town community school advised that she met the registrant at a folk dance camp in Maine and she frequently visits friends of the registrant on 82nd Street; that the registrant strongly believes in peace, equality, freedom and dignity for himself and others and she feels he would be sincere in his claim. A landlady at Cambridge, Massachusetts advised that she rented a room to the registrant for six

weeks in 1957; that he was then a student at Harvard Business School and she had known him slightly as a witness; that she never discussed pacifism with him but she believed him to be of good character and believed he would be sincere in his convictions. An official of the NAACP in McComb, Mississippi advised that the registrant stayed at his home in July and August 1961 and he considered the registrant to be honest, of good conduct and only an occasional drinker; that they found him evasive regarding things he did not want to discuss and he had stated that he did not want to go into the Army as military service would disrupt his plans; that he is so dedicated to the work of helping the Negroes register that that work comes ahead of anything else; that the registrant had been beaten up and he had counseled the registrant against returning to that work but the registrant had returned that very night to the registration class; that he had talked with the registrant about religion and had gained the idea that he was not a church member and did not seem to be interested in joining a church. He advised that the registrant did not have a Bible with him when he lived there. Another associate of the registrant at McComb advised that shortly after the registrant came there he returned to New York and on his return gave the impression that he had been successful in obtaining a deferment; that the registrant impressed him as being of good character, sincere and honest and had once mentioned that it would be better if he could continue his work rather than serve in the Army and he gave no other reason for not wanting to go into the Army; that he was unusually sensitive about killing an animal and would stop his car rather than hit a dog in the road. Another associate with whom the registrant resided in September 1961 advised that the registrant does not drink or associate with women but seemed to be completely devoted to his work in voter registration; that he had attended the Baptist Church while staying there. He believed that the registrant felt that he could be more valuable in his work in

helping the colored people than going into military service and that this was probably the reason for his objection to military service. He advised that he had asked the registrant if he did not want someone to go with him when he went out at night and that the registrant had answered that he had someone as the Lord was with him. A landlady at McComb advised that she had asked the registrant why he did not fight back when he was beaten up at the demonstration and that he had said "I couldn't do that. You know I'm nonviolent." A director at McComb advised that he had treated the registrant for injuries after he had been beaten up in August 1961; that the registrant at times would borrow his car for his work but he did not know the registrant was a conscientious objector; that the registrant had prepared a petition to exempt him, the doctor, from military service because he was the only colored doctor in the community and his services were indispensable to the community; that the registrant did not mention his own views on Selective Service or on religion. He felt the registrant was a sincere person and would be sincere in his claim. An associate of the registrant at McComb who lived in a rented room with the registrant advised that for his services the registrant had paid him room and board and a few dollars a week as spending money; that he was arrested with the registrant in a high school sit in demonstration and spent 32 days in jail with the registrant; that he did not know the registrant was a conscientious objector and the registrant never mentioned it to him; that he had made a comment to another person that he did not want to go into the service but did not say why; that it was his opinion that the registrant was dedicated to his work and did not want to leave it to go into the service. He advised that he did not think it was a policy of the SNCC to be opposed to military service and that the registrant's objections represented his own personal views. Another participant in this sit in demonstration advised that he was notified on October 4, 1961 of a march of students from the high school to the Masonic Lodge

and he went there and found the registrant and four other students preparing signs; that the students marched to the hall and the registrant then addressed them there saying he did not feel it wise to continue as he felt there would be violence and he suggested they confine their activities to the colored section of the town; that they voted to continue and the registrant and other SNCC representatives went with them; that as a result they were arrested and spent the next 37 days in jail. He advised that the registrant had mentioned going to Europe for the American Friends and that he had sung a song which had the theme "Man will never fight again" and a title something like "Peace Time"; that in regard to the disturbance in Berlin the registrant had stated that he could not see how the government could ask people in the United States to go to a foreign country and fight and intervene in their problems when they had not solved their own domestic problems at home and he had mentioned all the money spent on bombs while people here were starving. He advised that the registrant attended church almost every Sunday, attending a different church each Sunday in connection with the fund raising drive for the voters registration program. He believed registrant sincere in his claim and there were a number of reasons for it.

The registrant's father advised that he has three sons and that when his wife died in 1958 he had a nervous breakdown, went to a hospital and the family broke up; that the registrant went to stay with an aunt; that the registrant is of good character, intelligent, a deep thinker and sincere in everything he does; that religion was not pushed at him and he went only occasionally to Sunday School at St. Mark's Church at 138th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue in New York City and he did not know of any church of which the registrant was a

member; that at one time while attending Hamilton College the registrant had written that he was sincere about becoming a minister and that he had told his son that the ministry was a calling, not just an occupation; that the registrant had told him during his junior or senior year at Hamilton College that he was going to file a conscientious-objector claim; that he had told the registrant "All Hell would break out" and that the registrant had said that the worst that could happen to him would be that he would spend a few years in jail; that he himself has worked at an Armory for a number of years and that one son has spent two years in the Army and another son is presently in the Army in Europe. He was sure that the registrant is sincere in his conscientious-objector claim. A reference who was an instructor of the registrant at Hamilton College advised that the registrant had occasionally served as a baby sitter for him and that he recalled that the registrant had conscientious-objector beliefs before he met him and that he seemed to be sincere and to have sound grounds for his belief; that he himself was a conscientious objector in World War II and is active in the Quaker organization; that he has talked to the registrant about his beliefs but does not recall the grounds upon which the registrant based his objections. He advised that he has received correspondence from the registrant who was in jail in Georgia for activities in connection with the Freedom Riders.

Credit records were negative. Records of the Pike County Jail, Magnolia, Mississippi show that the registrant was admitted to the jail on October 31, 1961 and was released on \$1,000 bail on December 6, 1961. The records of McComb, Mississippi Police Department show that the registrant was charged on October 4, 1961 with disturbing the peace and was found guilty before a Justice of the Peace on October 31, 1961; that an

affidavit in the files filed by a police officer charged the registrant with contributing to the delinquency of a minor 16 years of age by encouraging the child to violate the laws of Mississippi. A Justice of the Peace at McComb advised that the registrant was brought into his court on August 15, 1961 charged with interfering with a policeman in the performance of his duty and that he had found the registrant guilty and fined him \$50 with \$5 costs and offered to suspend the \$50 fine if the registrant would not return to court for 90 days; that the registrant refused to pay the \$5 cost and was then remanded to the Pike County Jail; that a Negro attorney then came and paid the registrant's way out of jail for \$49 representing the \$50 fine and \$5 cost less the two days in jail at \$3 a day. He advised that the attorney had indicated at the time that he intended to appeal the conviction.

Prepared: March 21, 1962