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TITLE <b>CLAUDIA VERA SCHOLNICK, was: Claudia Jones, Mrs. Nick Scholnick, nee Claudia Vera Cumberbatch, Claude Cumberbatch</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b> <i>Classified by 548 PJS/TLS</i> <i>Declassify on: OADR</i> <b>11-30-83</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 150px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>			
<p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE</p> <p><i>cc EDA</i> <i>enc 6/26/50</i> <i>mech</i></p>			
REFERENCE: <b>APPROPRIATE AGENCIES</b> <i>Classification</i> <i>12/28/48 501/53</i> - P - Bureau file 100-72390. Report of SA <b>[REDACTED]</b> New York, 8/29/47.			
DETAILS: On July 18, 1947 CLAUDIA JONES participated in a radio forum held at 9:30 PM over Radio Station KQV, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The subject for debate was a question of universal military training. CLAUDIA JONES and a Mr. NATHAN ALBERT represented the side of Communism as opposed to democracy, which was represented by the Honorable BLAIR F. GUNTHER, Judge, Allegheny County Court, and Colonel J. S. IRWIN, Chairman, Western Pennsylvania Committee for Universal Military Training. CLAUDIA JONES was the first speaker on the forum.			
The complete statements made in the debate between the parties representing Communism and Democracy are being set forth in this report			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Ceward Scholnick</i>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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as transcribed and received by the Pittsburgh Division.

"Miss JONES: My party, the Communist Party, joins with millions of other Americans, in fact with the majority of people, in opposing a policy of Universal Military Training for the nation's youth. We are opposed to such a proposal because instead of its being a means of promoting democracy and world peace, it would in reality, promote (unintelligible) of the country, (unintelligible) and war-mongers. Defense of the country depends not on its military might alone, but first of all on those policies that will insure democracy to all the people, decent homes, adequate education, a high standard of living, and an active defense of world peace and democracy.

Moderator: "Miss JONES, what is your position with the Communist Party?

Miss JONES: "My position with the Communist Party is secretary of its National Women's Commission.

Moderator: "Out of New York City?

Miss JONES: "On a national basis.

Moderator: "Judge GUNTHER, what is your idea of Universal Military Training?

Judge GUNTHER: "When they ask me about military training, whether we need it, I say to a business man. 'Do you need insurance for your house or for your business?' And summed up in a few words, Universal Military Training is like a mechanic with tools and a plan to repair a sensitive machine that was struck with a sledge hammer following VJ Day: where they should have used a delicate gauge to demobilize the forces, we used a sledge hammer to get over it in a hurry. Now we must repair this machine instead of wrecking it.

Moderator: "Now Mr. ALBERT, how about you on universal Military Training?

Mr. ALBERT: "Universal Military Training is connected with our national security. Now a (unintelligible) program of national security must meet the needs of the American people and must insure that we have a democratic foreign policy of cooperation through the United Nations, as suggested by FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT and as advocated in our country today by HENRY WALLACE. Thus, the security of our country requires not universal military training, but a united struggle of the people to bring about a return to race policy, a policy of peace and security throughout the world.

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Moderator: "What is your position with the Communist Party? Are you a native of Pittsburgh?"

Mr. ALBERT: "Yes, I am a native of Pittsburgh. I am on the committee here of the Communist Party in Allegheny County, and I try to serve as best I can."

Moderator: "What sort of committee? Would you be a little more explicit."

Mr. ALBERT: "It's on the county committee of the Communist Party that we have here."

Moderator: "Colonel IRWIN, how about you on Universal Military Training?"

Colonel IRWIN: "Well, Universal Military Training, or as I term it, universal preparedness, is just exactly what it says. It is making preparations. Just exactly like the farmer needs rain, and the carpenter needs lumber and nails, and the veteran needs housing, we have to prepare for something. And we have had the experience of this country since its birth, of needing military preparation, and our weakness has been that we have never been prepared. And, as you know, from the revolutionary down, it is getting worse every time, and the next time, if we are not prepared, what will happen to the nation? We must have preparation."

Miss JONES: "Both Judge GUNTHER and Colonel IRWIN have based their arguments on the proposition that we need preparedness for what, Gentlemen? Preparedness for peace or for war?"

GUNTHER & IRWIN: "For peace!"

Miss JONES: "These are the questions which (unintelligible) the majority of the American people."

Judge GUNTHER: "You are an admitted Communist, are you not?"

Miss JONES: "Correct."

Judge GUNTHER: "And you believe in the theories of Colonel Marx, do you not?"

Miss JONES: "I do."

Judge GUNTHER: "Have you ever read the constitution of the U. S. S. R.?"

Miss JONES: "Yes."

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Judge GUNTHER:

"Does it include compulsory military training?

Miss JONES:

"On that question -

Judge GUNTHER:

"Does it contain Universal Military Training? Answer me that question.

Miss JONES:

"On that question, let me answer you. The constitution of the Soviet Union does have a plan for compulsory military training. I am not here to defend the position of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, in having such a plan, whatever it does, it is its own business. I would say, since you asked the question, that the Soviet Union, in my opinion, has had more of a logical justification for such a program of universal military training because ever since its inception it has been the target of foreign imperialist intervention, both in June, 1941, attack by HITLER, the Finnish attack involving foreign imperialism - no less a person than HERBERT HOOVER supported such intervention against the Soviet Union - the threats from Japan, the Japanese militarists, in addition to the sixty nations, including the United States, which attacked the Soviet Union.

Judge GUNTHER:

"Miss JONES, do you mean to tell me that poor little Finland attacked that big (unintelligible) Russia - that only a few million people attacked 170,000,000 people? You know that isn't true, and furthermore, you know that STALIN made a peace pact with MOLOTOV and RUBENTROV (phonetic) in '39 to attack Poland. She took over Latvia, Esthonia, and Finland. She took over Roumania, Hungary and every other country, and she is the one with ten thousand planes today - ten thousand planes Russia has. We have very few, and do you mean to tell me Russia is working for peace and we're for war?

Mr. ALBERT:

"Judge GUNTHER, it seems to me that the problem we face here is this. Those who want Compulsory Military Training say it is necessary for the defense of our country. At the present time what we would face is this: If we had compulsory military training, it would bring about military thinking throughout the entire nation among the nation's youth. It would give much more power to the generals and the military people in our country and it would be for the purpose of installing justification for war. At the present time the main problem we have is strengthening the United Nations and seeing to it that we bring around cooperation with all countries to work for peace and de-militarization.

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Judge GUNTHER:

"Wait a minute, you talk about the United Nations. You don't deny today that the United Nations, with the veto power of Russia is only a (unintelligible) and is not practical?

Mr. ALBERT:

"At the present time, Judge GUNTHER, the problem that we face today is this. How can we work together to see that we reduce the enormous cost of military expenditures, not only in our country but throughout the entire world and use all these materials to help build homes, to help build schools, hospitals, and things that we need; and we can do that if we have a policy of working together through the United Nations to achieve that object.

Judge GUNTHER:

"Is Russia doing that? Is Russia setting an example to the world? We, are, but Russia isn't.

Colonel IRWIN:

"What did we do after the first World War? We scrapped ships, planes, everything in the world. We sunk millions and millions of tons of everything.

(unintelligible because of everyone talking at once)

Colonel IRWIN:

"Let's get back to the original question. She asked me was I for preparedness in peace or war, and my answer is to you, that is the reason why I asked you if you were a Communist, in favor of Communism, which is exemplified to the world by Russia, isn't it? and in their constitution they have compulsory military training, and today they have fifteen soldiers for every soldier that we have. Now, what are we preparing for? The answer is we are preparing for exactly what you bring up.

Miss JONES:

"Colonel IRWIN, under discussion here on this radio debate, as I understand it, is whether a policy of universal military training serves the best interests of our own nation.

Colonel IRWIN:

"That's correct.

Miss JONES:

"Will such a policy contribute to peace? I maintain that such a policy will not contribute to peace because it is not disconnected with the other policies which our State Department and War Department are pursuing, and what are these policies? It is the policy which we see in the press, just yesterday and the last few days - a policy which is leading to armed intervention, civil war, and strife, directed against, for instance, the people of Greece.

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Judge GUNTHER:

"I know: but here, the people of Greece are protecting themselves against the Communist-inspired revolution and a new form of government that the Russians want to set up. And I'm going to tell you this. If we are strong enough and ready enough that we can face Russia with everything that she has, with the atom bomb, we can scare her away. She wants to conquer the world. We don't want anything from Europe. If we are going to be strong enough, prepared enough, we're going to avoid war.

Miss JONES:

"Judge GUNTHER, are you stating to this radio audience that the preparations for Universal Military Training must be a war with the Soviet Union? Is that your position?

Judge GUNTHER:

"I say that Soviet Russia is preparing war against us. We wanted peace with Russia. We appeased her time and again in Poland. We appeased her in Hungary. We appeased her all over the world, but Russia is in there grabbing with her imperialism. Does America want anything from Europe? We want to help them. We want to give them things, don't we? but Russia wants to take over the whole world.

Mr. ALBERT:

"The main problem that we see today in relation to the security of our country is this. How can we make our country secure, together with the rest of the world, for peace? At the present time what we see today is this, and it is very disturbing to me and it is disturbing to many American people who think about this. First of all, we are not aiding our allies. We are aiding those forces in Europe that actually collaborated and helped HITLER. For instance, in Spain we are helping FRANCO today, although we promised that we would not do so. In Greece we are helping the king to maintain himself in power against the wishes of the Greek people. Five thousand Greek people were arrested on the (unintelligible) alone. All these people are people who fought against the Germans, who want a free, democratic Greece, and we interfered there.

Judge GUNTHER:

"That's not true, my friend, that's not true, because the elections in Greece have shown that by the greatest majority the people voted for a democracy, not for communism.

Mr. ALBERT:

"And another thing is this. What we must do is this. We must work to see to it that the people of every country have a right to choose what kind of government they want to and then work for those kind of governments, and all peoples to build peace, and a program that builds peace must inspire other countries to confidence in our foreign policy.

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Judge GUNTHER: "The kind of peace that STALIN wants is a Russian peace and forget about the other countries.

Mr. ALBERT: "Now that's red-baiting, Judge GUNTHER. Let's face the truth. We have the biggest fleet in the world. Today our fleet is patrolling in the Pacific and Mediterranean areas. The Russian fleet is not patrolling here.

(unintelligible because of everyone talking at once)

Mr. ALBERT: "We have the biggest air force in the world (intercept: 'Russia has a bigger one') We have the atomic bomb, and what HENRY WALLACE said when he came back from Europe was that the common people everywhere feel what the United States is doing because they see to it that the policy that the United States is following -

(unintelligible because of clamor)

Judge GUNTHER: "I am not following the policies of HENRY WALLACE because I think he is a crackpot.

(unintelligible)

Moderator: "Just a minute, Mr. ALBERT. We are getting into labor. We are going to get off war for just a minute. However, about universal military training in connection with juvenile delinquency, do you think it would be a means to curb juvenile delinquency?

Judge GUNTHER: "In this country today we spend about fifteen billion dollars for crime, and a great part of that fifteen billion dollars goes for what? To curb juvenile delinquency, for juvenile homes, to keep these children up for the courts, the judges, and the police, and everything else. And I tell you one thing, that if you give this boy military training, you take care of his health, you give him an opportunity for education, you give him a chance to learn and build things up. He can be a workman anywhere whatsoever, and I'm telling you military training makes a better man out of that man.

Moderator: "All right, what do you say about this, Miss JONES?

Miss JONES: "Judge GUNTHER'S assumption that military training will democratize the youth of America is a false premise.

Judge GUNTHER: "The youth is already democratized.

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Miss JONES: "For one thing, we could have greater democracy in the case of the negro youth. For instance, the Jim Crows in the last war in the Army, even in the Fort Knox experiment on military training.

Colonel IRWIN: "Now wait a minute, they are not discriminated against at Fort Knox.

Miss JONES: "I insist, Colonel IRWIN. You can speak about that later.

Colonel IRWIN: "All right. They're volunteers; and their mothers and fathers are invited there. They volunteer to take this experimental training for universal military training, and they are asked if they want to take it. Their fathers and mothers are invited to come and see if the boys approve of it. They have asked representatives of the church, the union, the women's societies, and the men's societies to come there and view that thing.

Miss JONES: "According to reliable estimates issued in Conscription News put out in Washington, a survey of the Fort Knox project shows that the stigma of segregation is on this project by the Army.

Colonel IRWIN: "Mr. LUCY (phonetic) of the United Press went to Fort Knox and wrote six or eight articles. Read his articles. He'll tell you exactly what they are trying to do.

Moderator: "Miss JONES, you mentioned Conscription News. By whom is it published?

Miss JONES: "I don't know the name of the author. I didn't bring a copy with me.

Moderator: It's not a War Department -

Miss JONES: "It's not a War Department - It's by a separate committee that is opposed to universal military training.

(unintelligible because of clamor)

Miss JONES: "I insist on my right to answer the question.

Moderator: "Just a minute, Miss JONES.

Judge GUNTHER: "If military training will at least teach a boy to hand up his clothes when he comes home, it has accomplished something.

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Miss JONES:

"I would say to the Judge that to make such an assumption as to admit that our educational institutions have failed in their responsibility -

Judge GUNTHER:

"And they have.

Mr. ALBERT:

"Here's what the CIO has to say about it. We feel that peacetime militarization of the United States would destroy the social values that have made this nation since its birth a beacon for humanity. Above all, we feel it is the wrong road. In relation to education, I want to say this. We spend 1 1/2% of our budget on education; Great Britain spends 3%, or twice as much on education; and Russia, which you criticize so much, spends 7% for education. Now the commission on universal military training says that it would cost about 1 3/4 billion dollars to carry this out. This figure, if it were used to build the youth of America up, with more schools, with the ability of their families to buy more food, to put on public projects that would help them to grow and mature and understand and love freedom and democracy, that would be the best guarantee.

Judge GUNTHER:

"May I prove to you that we have ten times more juvenile delinquency here than in any other country where they have military training?

Moderator:

"What's your answer to that?

(unintelligible - everyone talking at once)

Mr. ALBERT:

"We have delinquency now because we don't take a program to eliminate the slums and build good housing. We don't have a program to give decent wages to all peoples in all parts of our country so they can raise their children on decent levels. We have slums right here in Pittsburgh. If we really want to tackle the problem of eliminating juvenile delinquency, it will take some money to see to it that we eliminate the slums, that we build more schools, that we carry on social programs for children so that we don't have to live under those conditions.

Judge GUNTHER:

"I'm asking you. You were talking about the slums of Pittsburgh. Have you ever been outside of the United States?

Mr. ALBERT:

"We are interested in the United States - in eliminating those things here.

Miss JONES:

My colleague served in the South Pacific forty-four combat missions

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Judge GUNTHER: "I understand that. You Communists always bring up your service to the country. I want to tell you this.

Miss JONES: "We are very proud of that service, Judge.

Judge GUNTHER: "Certainly you may be proud of it, but he went there because he had to go. He didn't go as a volunteer.

Miss JONES: "Because we're patriotic in support of the nation's fight against fascism.

Judge GUNTHER: "So let me tell you this. We are saving this country from juvenile delinquency. We're building up the youth. It's a program that is sponsored by the whole country, by the taxpayers.

Mr. ALBERT: (clamor) "All the religious bodies, and as far as I can see, the labor movement, the AFL, the CIO, the churches, women's clubs, everyone is against military training, they say. They're against it because they realize that it would bring the youth under the ideas of militarists for war, that it would produce a war of psychology, that it would not benefit the nation at all. It would spend and waste hundreds of millions of dollars on useless things.

Judge GUNTHER: "You (unintelligible) that STALIN wants military training for Russia, but you don't want it for America.

Mr. ALBERT: "If you are bringing up the question that another country has military training, that is their problem if they feel it is necessary. Incidentally, let me tell you this. For your information, the Russian people do what they think is best. I do what I think is best for the American people.

Judge GUNTHER: "You follow the Russian line, don't you?

Mr. ALBERT: "I follow the line for the American people.

Unidentified Voice: Ha! Ha! ha!

Mr. ALBERT: "I'll tell you another thing, Judge, that the American Communists always fight for the things that the American people need - better housing, better trade unions, a stronger organization to bring (unintelligible because of everyone talking at once) -

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Moderator: "That's getting off the subject of juvenile delinquency.  
(clamor)

Mr. ALBERT: "Communists always fight for what the people need, and it's always the case that whenever we fight for what the people need, to bring in red-baiting.  
(clamor)

Moderator: "All right, Mr. ALBERT, let me ask you this. Do you think we should be prepared for peace or war?

Mr. ALBERT: "We should always be prepared, and my answer is this: that the best preparation for America in any emergency is to see to it that we have enough schools for everybody, enough homes for everybody.

Moderator: "All right, Mr. ALBERT, do you think we could stop an invasion with schools?

Mr. ALBERT: "Certainly, if any nation intends to invade us, we could always....  
(pause) we have the strength, the power, and the equipment and everything to stop anybody from invading us.

Moderator: "If the men are not trained, would you say we have the strength?

Mr. ALBERT: "But there is nobody here in the world today and no military man will say that any nation today contemplates invading or attacking the United States.

Moderator: "There seem to be two schools of thought on that. How about this question: Miss JONES, what do you think - that six months or twelve months as a (unintelligible) of military training would be wasted for, we'll say, a youth say from eighteen to twenty?

Miss JONES: "If you state the question whether such training would be wasted, I'd have to say that I can't answer the question in that form because my position is based on the fact that such training is not needed now. It would not contribute to the national security of our nation because this training would only give it impetus and make our nation appear as if we were ready to be an aggressor in world affairs instead of a real contributor to world peace.

Moderator: All right, Judge.

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Judge GUNTHER: "Miss JONES, you believe in Leninism, and you believe in Stalinism. Do you know what STALIN says? He said, Soviet Communism stands for war upon the peaceful nations of the world and for the extension of proletarianism.

(clamor)

Judge GUNTHER: "STALIN himself says a war is based upon force and unrestricted by law, and in his great work STALIN says that Leninism is the Mein Kampf of modern Russia. STALIN describes the idea of peaceful transition to socialism as an evidence either of treachery to Communism or proof of feeble-mindedness.

(everybody talking at once)

Mr. ALBERT: "I want to say this. That if we want to have peace in this world, certainly, as ROOSEVELT said, we must cooperate - between our great allies, the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union - and that is the way the United Nation is based - on cooperation. Now there is no reason to believe that if the United States took a position, let's have real disarmament, and let's give real aid to the people, not based on any control of what they have to do, what the big banks of the United States tell them, but on the basis of what the people want, we could do it. And I say the real problem we face today is not militarization and universal training but a policy where the United States takes the leadership and the world will follow that leadership for disarmament and do away with the useless spending of large sums of money for munitions.

Judge GUNTHER: "Mr. ALBERT, don't quote ROOSEVELT because he is one fellow, who at Teheran was supposed to be the great humanitarian and sold millions of people into Russian slavery.

Mr. ALBERT: "That's a dastardly lie, and I want to tell you that you are maligning the name of a man who is loved for his great - (unintelligible because of everyone talking at once) I am ashamed to hear you say that.

Judge GUNTHER: I'll prove it to you. I told that about ROOSEVELT four years ago, and I substantiate with facts and proof. He took ten million people in Poland and sold them into Russia.

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Mr. ALBERT: "those are absolute lies, Judge GUNTHER, and I -

Judge GUNTHER: "Do you know anything about Poland?

Mr. ALBERT: "And I want to say this, Judge GUNTHER, that when TRUMAN came into power, if he would have kept on carrying out the policies of ROOSEVELT today this world would have prospects of world peace everywhere.

Judge GUNTHER: "I'm a Republican, but I think TRUMAN at least is a great American, better than ROOSEVELT ever was.

Mr. ALBERT: "Today, for instance, the real problem of peace is shall the Americans use -

Moderator: "All right, I'm sorry, folks, our time is up, and that will be all for this, the second in a series of programs designed to hear both sides of the story between Communism and Democracy, and the persons you heard this evening were Judge BLAIR F. GUNTHER of the Allegheny County Court, Colonel J. S. IRWIN, representing Democracy, and Miss CLAUDIA JONES and Mr. NATHAN ALBERT on the side of Communism."

In the Daily Worker for August 4, 1947, in an article entitled "A Hot Radio Debate on Military Training", written under the by-line CLAUDIA JONES, the subject reviewed the debate she participated in over Radio Station KQV, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Particular emphasis in the article was made on the fact that the Communists in this debate clearly pointed out that a preparedness program in which millions has been spent for war preparations, military loans for foreign intervention in the internal affairs of other nations, is provoking civil strife in Greece, and elsewhere.

She stated that less than 1½ percent of the present national budget is spent in this country for educational purposes in contrast to 3 per cent in Britain and 7 per cent in the Soviet Union.

She stated: "We added though that there was more logical justification, with which many would agree for the USSR to prepare against foreign imperialist intervention, having been the target of such attack, not only from HITLER'S armies in June, 1941, but likewise from Finland and Japan to say nothing of the intervention of 16 nations, including the U. S., following her establishment."

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