

c/o Box 263
Peterborough, New Hampshire

August 6, 1954

THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter contains comments which may be useful to you in considering the security status and record of Miss Ruth A. M. Schmidt, of the Geological Survey. I hope they will be of some help in your determination in her case.

I first became acquainted with Miss Schmidt casually in the first months of 1946, in connection with the organization of the Washington Association of Scientists in which we were both interested. I have known her quite well since the latter months of 1948, in such extra-curricular activities as well as on a social plane. In this time, I have seen her on the average once a week for several hours -- during busy times we might have been working in the same group several times a week; there were also periods of several months when one or the other of us were out of Washington. I also travelled with her in Italy for a week in 1952.

From my contacts with her, Miss Schmidt appears to be a perfectly loyal citizen. In political-type discussions, all comments by her that I recall have been consistent with the United States form of government and "way of life." I have many times heard her speak disapprovingly of Russian actions and have never heard her express herself favorably with regard to totalitarian ideologies.

Miss Schmidt is, in my opinion, a discreet person. I believe she appreciates the need for secrecy in certain areas of scientific work for the furtherance of the national defense. I think she understands fully the security requirements in secret work. The reasons for these opinions are largely negative: in spite of very close association with Miss Schmidt over a period of more than five years, during some of which she was engaged in classified work, I have no idea of the nature of this work other than it was in the general field of her specialty, Geology. I have known her well enough that I think there would have been signs if she had a tendency to indiscretion or disregard of the security regulations.

My main associations with Miss Schmidt, other than social, have been in connection with help we have both given to the educational and informational work of the Federation of American Scientists. In this work, Miss Schmidt has volunteered to help especially in the implementation of policies and decisions of the responsible officials of that society. I recall that on several occasions she has called to my attention unintentionally ambiguous language in material being prepared for publication -- language, for instance, which might have been mistakenly taken as undeserved criticism of U.S. policies or actions. I recall no attempts on her part to soften the criticism of Soviet policies or actions which appeared in the bulletins we worked on, nor to throw out of perspective the factual reporting of events in Russia which our scientist-readers have watched with interest. You will note that this period included the disheartening stalemate in the discussions on international atomic control, the Lysenko and similar episodes, the Stockholm petition, the Communist attempts to sabotage CERN, and many other situations where the Russian attitude and actions would be

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reconcilable with the democratic viewpoint only with great difficulty. I believe there was ample opportunity in this space of more than five years for me to note any tendency on Miss Schmidt's part to be partial to "hostile" ideologies.

In my opinion, Miss Schmidt is very definitely a loyal U.S. citizen and a person of excellent character and sound judgment. From the more than five years of close association, I have the strong impression that she is a good security risk, and have seen or heard of no actions in this time which would indicate the contrary.

Sincerely yours,

A. H. Shapley