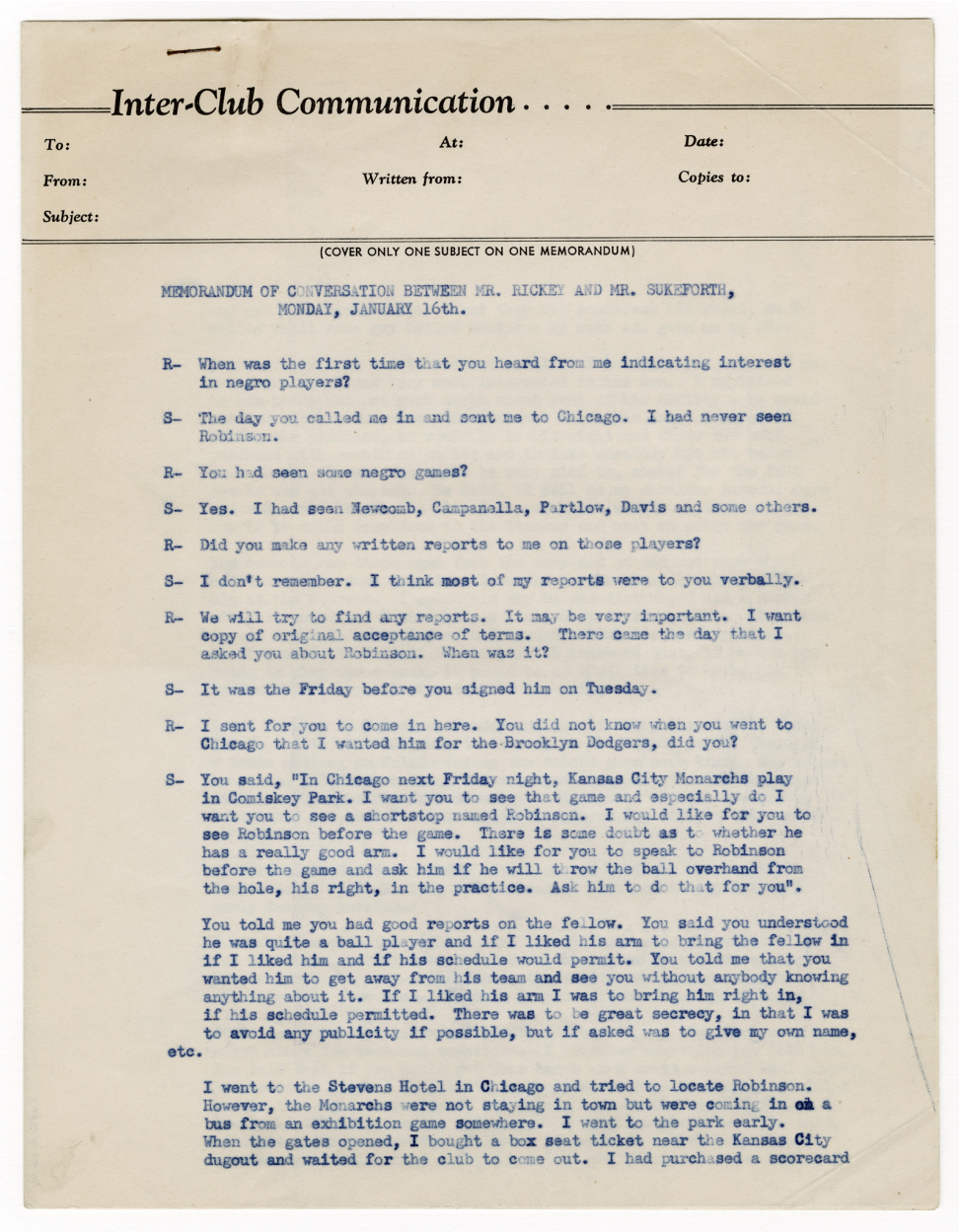

Inter-Club Communication . . . . .

To: At: Date:

From: Written from: Copies to:

Subject:

(COVER ONLY ONE SUBJECT ON ONE MEMORANDUM)

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. RICKEY AND MR. SUKEFORTH,
MONDAY, JANUARY 16th.

R- When was the first time that you heard from me indicating interest in negro players?

S- The day you called me in and sent me to Chicago. I had never seen Robinson.

R- You had seen some negro games?

S- Yes. I had seen Newcomb, Campanella, Partlow, Davis and some others.

R- Did you make any written reports to me on those players?

S- I don't remember. I think most of my reports were to you verbally.

R- We will try to find any reports. It may be very important. I want copy of original acceptance of terms. There came the day that I asked you about Robinson. When was it?

S- It was the Friday before you signed him on Tuesday.

R- I sent for you to come in here. You did not know when you went to Chicago that I wanted him for the Brooklyn Dodgers, did you?

S- You said, "In Chicago next Friday night, Kansas City Monarchs play in Comiskey Park. I want you to see that game and especially do I want you to see a shortstop named Robinson. I would like for you to see Robinson before the game. There is some doubt as to whether he has a really good arm. I would like for you to speak to Robinson before the game and ask him if he will throw the ball overhand from the hole, his right, in the practice. Ask him to do that for you".

You told me you had good reports on the fellow. You said you understood he was quite a ball player and if I liked his arm to bring the fellow in if I liked him and if his schedule would permit. You told me that you wanted him to get away from his team and see you without anybody knowing anything about it. If I liked his arm I was to bring him right in, if his schedule permitted. There was to be great secrecy, in that I was to avoid any publicity if possible, but if asked was to give my own name, etc.

I went to the Stevens Hotel in Chicago and tried to locate Robinson. However, the Monarchs were not staying in town but were coming in on a bus from an exhibition game somewhere. I went to the park early. When the gates opened, I bought a box seat ticket near the Kansas City dugout and waited for the club to come out. I had purchased a scorecard

Transcript of Conversation between Branch Rickey and Clyde Sukeforth recounting events of August 28, 1945, and Robinson's first day as a Dodger, January 16, 1946
Ink on paper, 11 x 8 1/2 in. (27.9 x 21.6 cm)
8513