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and  
Privacy Acts*

*Subject: Philip James Corso*

*File Number: 62-HQ-110017*



*Federal Bureau of Investigation*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

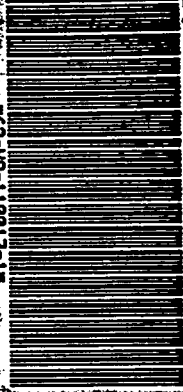
# FEDERAL BUREAU

*of*

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62-110017

SERIES I-



62-110017-11

SECTION 1

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

# Transfer-Call 421

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
 Service Unit - Room 6524  
 Forward to Files Review  
 Attention  
 Return to [REDACTED] 672-578  
 Supervisor [REDACTED] Room Ext.

670

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
 Subversive References Only  
 Nonsubversive References Only  
 Main References Only

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of  
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
 Buildup  Variations

Subject Cons, Philip J.  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/5 Searcher Initials 508

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
65-65192-267	(3/24/64)
62-84217-2813	ep*1-120
SI 2415	
2448	Vol #1, 4/3/62 Sec
2449	
13-5327-1010	
NP 64-32001-1-1375	ep*1
NP 100-344224-1	
NP 109-12-233-249	250
NP 113-34-1	1
NP 116-165494-17	TESTIMONY
NP 140-31550-43	
Philip	
62-108-365	
NP 62-20114-337	
NP 62-109090-A	(4/28/79-6/1/62)
NP 64-200-233-144	
NP 65-15192-222	731, 763
NP 67-405022-8	

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NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Corso, Phillip J.

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/5 Searcher Initial 508

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

	FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
	<u>Philip (contd)</u>	
MP	<u>77-43811-</u>	<u>30</u>
MP	<u>100-343544-</u>	<u>1</u>
MP	<u>100-420464-</u>	<u>7, 15</u>
I	<u>105-82555-</u>	<u>2274</u>
I		<u>2275</u>
SI		<u>3142</u>
MP	<u>109-12-233-</u>	<u>120</u>
	<u>Phil (aka)</u>	
MP	<u>62-101815-</u>	<u>X 8</u>
MP	<u>65-65192-</u>	<u>269</u>
	<u>P.J.</u>	
MP	<u>62-105211-</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>Phillip (var)</u>	
MP	<u>100-2555-</u>	<u>605</u>
	<u>Phillip J. (var)</u>	
MP	<u>62-101815-</u>	<u>X 9</u>
MP	<u>100-420464-</u>	<u>7, 8</u>

b7c



#432295-1  
CLASSIFIED BY 60267N8/BCE/BB  
DECLASSIFYING PER 9974 letter dated 3/31/99  
The Acting Attorney General

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
  - 1 - Mr. DeLoach
  - 1 - Mr. Belmont
  - 1 - Mr. Evans - sent to [redacted]
  - 1 - Mr. Rosen
  - 1 - [redacted]
  - 1 - Name Check
  - 1 - [redacted]
- November 10, 1964

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~SECRET~~ Philip J. Corso

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION  
NOV 11 2 13 PM '64

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHILIP J. CORSO - Summary

Reference is made to the request of [redacted] of your staff to Assistant Director Courtney A. Evans on November 5, 1964, for a name check concerning the captioned individual.

Our files do not reveal that Corso has been investigated by this Bureau. We do have information indicating that he has been connected with the U. S. Army for over twenty years engaged primarily in the intelligence field. Over a period of years he has contacted the FBI furnishing information in connection with various allegations of subversive activities on the part of different individuals. u

In 1955, General Arthur S. Trudeau furnished this Bureau as well as other agencies with a list of various individuals alleged to be "Fabian Socialists" who were in policy positions in the United States Government. At that time General Trudeau indicated that Colonel Philip Corso, then assigned to the Operations Coordinating Board, would be in a position to elaborate concerning the list of names as he, Corso, had actually accumulated the information regarding these individuals. It has been ascertained that this list was disseminated outside of the Executive Branch of the Government and had not been handled in a secure and prudent manner. Concerning the list, the FBI files were reviewed concerning the individuals named and although we did find derogatory information concerning many of them, there was insufficient evidence to prove the validity of the allegation of "Fabian Socialists." "Fabian Socialists" have been described as a British Socialist organization founded in 1884 which advocates the gradual transition from capitalism to parliamentary socialism and opposes Marxism and revolutionary action. W

Our files disclose also that Corso appeared before the Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and Other Internal Security Laws of the Committee on the Judiciary on May 15, 1961, and again on April 13, 1962. u

NOTE: No arrest record on basis of name checks in Identification Division per [redacted] 11/6/64.

NOV 12 1964  
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CONFIDENTIAL  
MAR 25 1965  
TYPE UNIT

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Classified by [redacted]  
Declassify on OADR 1-10-91

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NOV 10 1964  
COMM-FBI

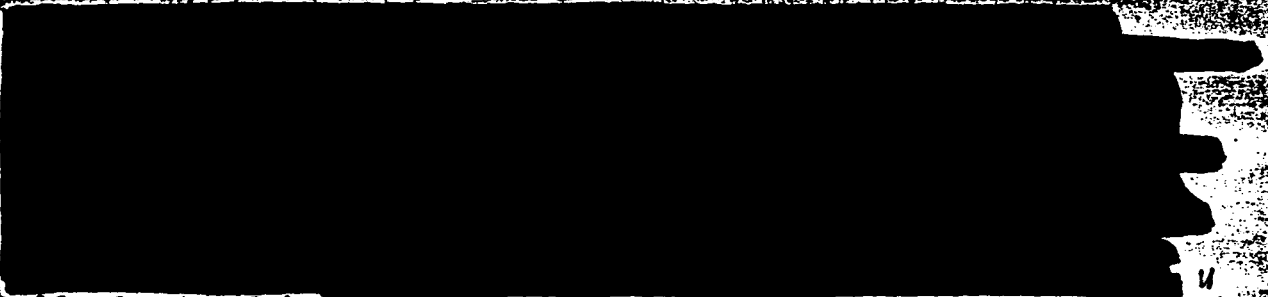
NOV 10 1964  
MAR 25 1965

The Acting Attorney General

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LEGISLATIVE  
RECORDS  
ARE NOT  
SUBJECT  
TO FOIPA.



(65-65192-267)

In February, 1964, we received information from an official and reliable source that a rumor was being passed around among high Government officials and even in newspaper circles that Lee Harvey Oswald, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, had been an informant of the FBI and was being paid \$200 a month. The source of this rumor was alleged to be Corso. As the rumor was entirely false and without any foundation, Corso was interviewed by an official of this Bureau. After considerable discussion, Corso admitted that he had passed out information concerning Oswald's alleged connection with the FBI, stating "his sources in CIA had merely presumed that Oswald was an FBI informant." Upon being requested to identify his sources within the Central Intelligence Agency, he refused saying that as his "CIA friends had no facts whatsoever he did not want to reveal their identity." He emphasized the fact that his allegations had been strictly deductions and had no basis in fact. U (105-82555-2274, 2275)



b1  
b3  
CIA

Another Government agency has characterized Corso as a "parasite" who has never produced any intelligence through his own efforts but has profited from information developed by dedicated Government agents and investigators. (65-65192-267)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

5 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of \_\_\_\_\_

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): Congressional documents are not subject to FOIPA.

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-110017-1

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 2-11-65

FROM: M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: PHILIP J. CORSO  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
SENATOR STROM THURMOND'S OFFICE

By letter dated 2-6-65, Congressman Michael A. Feighan (D-Ohio) wrote the Director alleging captioned individual has been the subject of condemnation on the basis of "unevaluated" information being circulated through an unofficial and unsigned report. Feighan contends this amounts to a serious violation of Corso's civil rights and the Congressman indicates he plans to call upon Mr. Hoover to discuss this matter. He enclosed a summary of the information which he said is being disseminated, and accompanied it with his own refutation of each point of controversy concerning Corso. Feighan is reputed to be eager to employ Corso on the staff of the House Immigration and Nationality Subcommittee, of which he is the Chairman. Following is a resume of the pertinent information in Bufiles concerning Corso.

### INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Philip J. Corso: Bufiles contain a number of references to Corso, although we have never investigated him. He was an intelligence officer for over 15 of his 20 years in the U.S. Army. He has contacted the FBI from time to time, especially in the 1940s, usually in connection with some allegation concerning the subversive activity of one individual or another.

In September, 1955, General Arthur G. Trudeau, following his removal as Assistant Chief of Staff of G-2, contacted Mr. Hoover and subsequently furnished the Bureau with a list of 122 individuals alleged to be "Fabian Socialists" or communist sympathizers who were in policy positions in the U.S. Government. Trudeau had been relieved of his duties in August, 1955, with G-2 and transferred to the Far East Command reputedly as the result of charges by CIA Director, Allen Dulles, that Trudeau's activities had been prejudicial to U.S. intelligence efforts.

Trudeau gave the FBI the names of [redacted], then of his staff, and Colonel Philip Corso, then assigned to the Operations Coordinating Board (OCB), National Security Council, as the individuals the FBI could contact concerning the list of names. [redacted] later advised the Bureau that Corso actually accumulated the information which General Trudeau gave the FBI.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure  
HHA:jks (6)

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Jones to DeLoach memo  
Re: Philip J. Corso

Over 5,500 references were reviewed in Bufiles on these 122 names. Identifiable derogatory information was found on 105 of the 119 identified; however, there was insufficient evidence to prove the validity of the allegations regarding Fabian socialism. The Bureau had already investigated 94 of the 105 previously. It was also determined that ██████ Corso and Trudeau disseminated information regarding their charges outside the Executive Branch and that the matter had not been handled in a secure or prudent manner. The Director indicated he wanted the FBI kept out of the resulting dispute between G-2 and CIA. (100-420468)

Corso testified before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on 5-15-61, 8-28-61 and 4-3-62. ██████

(62-88217-2815; 2849)

In May, 1961, ██████ then assigned to the Joint Staff (Intelligence), advised the Bureau it had recently come to his attention that General Trudeau, then serving as Chief of Army Research and Development, had been actively engaged in trying to revive interest and concern over the issue of "Fabian Socialists" in Government. According to ██████ Trudeau contacted certain members of Congress through Philip Corso, who had been reassigned to Trudeau's staff. ██████ said he had a hand in preparing the original list of "Fabian Socialists" for General Trudeau; however, he again alleged it was Corso who accumulated the basic information while he was assigned to OCB. ██████ said he merely organized and put together Corso's information in 1955.

████████ said since Corso had returned to the Pentagon in May, 1961, he had been in frequent contact with him. Corso told ██████ he had recently appeared in a closed session of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. ██████ said in addition to the individuals still active in Government whom Trudeau had identified as "Fabian Socialists" in 1955, Corso identified before the Subcommittee, the following individuals as "Fabian Socialists" attached to the White House staff: W.W. Rostow, McGeorge Bundy, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and J.B. Wiesner.

████████ said he was opposed to General Trudeau again raising the "Fabian Socialist" issue. He said he reminded Trudeau this was partially the cause of his problem in 1955 with the "Dulles family" which caused his transfer from Army Intelligence. Trudeau denied he was becoming involved again; however, ██████ said Trudeau has a fetish about security and intelligence work and cannot keep his fingers out of that area.

Jones to DeLoach memo  
Re: Philip J. Corso

██████████ said in spite of Trudeau's denials, Corso told him confidentially his testimony before the Senate Subcommittee was at Trudeau's direction. It was his opinion that at some opportune time, the Committee hoped to hold an open hearing with Corso as a witness in order to "smear" the Kennedy Administration. Declaring he was as "security minded" as anyone, ██████████ said the "Fabian Socialist" issue had been "milked dry," and to again raise it publicly could only harm the U.S., particularly in the field of international relations. (100-420468-15)

Corso was also alleged to be responsible for putting out a rumor that Lee Harvey Oswald was an FBI informant. When interviewed on 2-10-64, by you (Mr. DeLoach) regarding this, Corso indicated his "sources in CIA had merely presume that Oswald was an informant for the FBI." When you challenged him to identify his CIA sources, Corso repeatedly failed to produce names. There is good reason to believe Corso never got such information from CIA and the "deductions" were his own. The Director noted: "Corso is a rat."

The interview with Corso took place in Senator Thurmond's office, in the presence of the Senator's Administrative and Legislative Assistants, ██████████ and ██████████. Corso repeatedly refused to identify his alleged CIA sources and, after you kept pressing him on this point, he modified his story by saying a Communist Party member in Texas named ██████████ knew Oswald had been the source of FBI information and ██████████ had been spreading this story around. When you told Corso he was inconsistent in his story, he got very melodramatic about his fear the communists were promoting a deliberate smear of the FBI.

Oddly enough, when you met with Senator Eastland and ██████████ on 2-6-64, about this matter, the Senator, in ██████████ presence, told you that the latter's source said Oswald was being handled as an FBI informant by a Special Agent named ██████████. Later, ██████████ identified his source to you as Corso. (There is a ██████████ on the Reserve Index, Section B, of the San Antonio Office.)

From your interview with Corso on 2-10-64, you got the definite impression that he was a rather shifty-eyed individual who fancied himself a great intelligence expert. It was difficult for you to pin him down and he continually insisted on expounding his theories in preference to sticking to facts. In spite of the fact Corso promised to call you on 2-11-64, relative to the identity of his sources, he did not do so. When you reached him that evening he said he had not had an opportunity to recontact his sources. He then stressed his sources had no facts but that their belief Oswald was an FBI informant merely stemmed from idle deduction during a conversation. He said he was responsible for leading this discussion in this regard because of his extensive experiences with military intelligence, he felt than any American citizen who was given a job in the Soviet Union, allowed to marry a Soviet citizen and then permitted to return with her

Jones to DeLoach memo

Re: Philip J. Corso

to the U.S. could only be an FBI or CIA informant. He indicated neither he nor his CIA sources had any facts on which to base these deductions. He again promised to contact you within 3 days. When you had no word from him by 2-25-64, you contacted Corso again. Claiming to have been traveling with Senator Thurmond, Corso apologized for not getting in touch with you as he had promised. He again refused to disclose his so-called CIA sources, and again emphasized the fact that his allegations had been strictly deductions and had no basis in fact. You told him this was a pretty poor way of doing business, especially for a man who supposedly had been trained in intelligence operations, and you advised him of the tremendous amount of work his gossip had caused the FBI. His reply was to invite you to lunch. This was refused. (105-82555-2274, 2275, 2276)

[redacted] and CIA characterized Corso as a parasite who has never produced any intelligence through his own efforts, but who has profited from information developed by hundreds of dedicated Government agents and investigators.

On 10-30-64, [redacted]

[redacted] Immigration and Naturalization Service, advised the Bureau that an employee of his had found a carbon copy of a letter on the streets of Capitol Hill addressed to the Director and dated 10-28-64. This communication signed by Philip J. Corso, Research Assistant to Senator Strom Thurmond, alleged that Mr. Hoover or the FBI was being used to follow up leads derived from illegal telephone monitoring of calls from Senator Thurmond's office. The letter indicated a hoax call was made and recorded to determine if the Bureau was involved and being used as a political tool by the present Administration. Corso said this incident, which he did not identify, was particularly appalling since you (Mr. DeLoach) had personally assured him no phones on Capitol Hill were ever illegally monitored. Corso said it was obvious that you were lying.

On 11-3-64, you interviewed Corso regarding this letter. SA [redacted]

[redacted] was also present. Corso acknowledged the communication as his and expressed surprise that it had got out. He tried to explain it away as a joke, engaged in by himself and three of Senator Thurmond's assistants. According to Corso, this joke materialized one night when the group was sitting around with nothing else to do. He said there was no intention of releasing the letter, and that he thought the original and all copies had been destroyed. You asked him why, if it were a joke, the letter had been witnessed by [redacted] an attorney who had formerly been on the Subcommittee of the Senate investigating [redacted]. Corso continued to insist it was written "in fun." You very strongly impressed upon him that the FBI did not tap telephone wires on Capitol Hill and that we certainly did not appreciate his brand of so-called humor. (62-52026-76)

Jones to DeLoach memo  
Re: Philip J. Corso

Michael A. Feighan: Feighan, Democrat of Cleveland, Ohio, has been a member of Congress since 1942. Our relationship with him has been a cordial one, with the majority of our contacts relating to constituent matters and invitations for the Director to address groups in which Feighan has a personal interest. On 8-2-63, Representative Feighan visited the Bureau and talked with Inspector Robert Wick. He showed Wick a letter which he had received from [REDACTED]

The Congressman said he came to the FBI for guidance. Wick suggested Feighan contact Director McCone of CIA; advise him of the receipt of the letter from [REDACTED] and request guidance from CIA. Feighan agreed to this, stating he did not wish to do anything contrary to the Bureau's wishes in the matter.

On 5-13-64, Inspector [REDACTED] contacted Feighan to determine the basis for the Congressman's statement that there are now "communists in high places in the CIA and the State Department, and it is time to get rid of them." When [REDACTED] asked Feighan about this, he became "extremely flustered" and said he would like to "marshal his facts" and that he would get in touch with the Bureau as he would like very much to discuss the entire situation. He did not contact [REDACTED] again and, by 5-25-64, it was decided he had nothing of value. The probability exists that Feighan was relying on material furnished to him by [REDACTED] and the Director approved dropping the matter.

Feighan is extremely hostile to communism. There is<sup>a</sup> probability that Feighan frequently leaks information to [REDACTED]. The Congressman requested to see the Director on 10-6-64, and it was deduced that [REDACTED] was using Feighan in an effort to determine why the Government suddenly dropped its espionage case against [REDACTED].

#### OBSERVATIONS:

The memorandum referred to by Congressman Feighan undoubtedly stems from the Director's letter to the Acting Attorney General, dated 11-10-64. (Copy attached.) Mr. Hoover's communication was in response to a request from [REDACTED] of the Department for a name check on Corso. Apparently the memorandum furnished by the Department to Representative Celler was based on the Director's letter. Feighan states Celler showed the memo to him on 1-7-65, and it is a good possibility that Feighan either let Corso see the memo or told him of its contents. This is based on the fact that Feighan's attempted refutation of the four points covered in the Department's memo could only come, for the most part, from Corso.

In giving the so-called "facts" of the four points, Feighan states the list was never labeled "Fabian Socialist." Apparently he has never read the transcripts of Corso's testimony before the Senate Subcommittee. In his third appearance,