

Jones to DeLoach memo

Re: Philip J. Corso

Corso uses this phrase to describe some of the people in CIA, USIA and State. Too, when General Trudeau saw the Director, this is the term he used to describe the list Corso had prepared.

Corso and General Trudeau have caused the FBI and other Federal agencies to expend many hours of work and much manpower in running down wild accusations. For example, on 2-2-54, the Bureau was asked by State to conduct a Security of Government Employees investigation of Jesse MacKnight, then Special Assistant to the Secretary for Public Affairs. Since MacKnight had represented the State Department on OCB, Corso was interviewed. He provided a signed statement based on his contacts with MacKnight from the fall of 1953. According to Corso, MacKnight had never been enthusiastic about the various propaganda papers Corso prepared. Corso said MacKnight's attitude and actions, he felt, aided the cause of communism. He admitted he never heard MacKnight espouse the cause or government of another country, but neither had he ever heard MacKnight express any anger with the actions of communist nations. Based on this, Corso said he reached the conclusion that while he did not know whether MacKnight belonged to any subversive organizations, he did know that MacKnight's policies did not seem to be "in the best interests of the United States."

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Re: Philip J. Corso

After giving the statement, Corso then told the interviewing Agent that he had some confidential background information to relate. He said "a highly-placed CIA representative," told him MacKnight had requested affidavits from about 70 CIA employees attesting to his character and loyalty. Corso, as usual, refused to identify his CIA informant, but he told the Bureau Agent that Frank Wisner, Deputy Director for Covert Operations, CIA, "ordered" the men listed by MacKnight to submit favorable affidavits attesting to MacKnight's character and loyalty or be fired within 24 hours. Interestingly enough, Corso gave this signed statement on 12-7-56; however, when he testified before the Senate Subcommittee he related this same story and identified his informant as one Parrott who was assigned to the Security Office of the State Department.

Corso's charges against MacKnight were dropped by reason of a "high level policy decision" at the Department of State. This was done because approximately 100 depositions were submitted in MacKnight's behalf, including a number from various individuals in State, USIA and CIA who either served on OCB with MacKnight or were familiar with OCB activities. These depositions supported MacKnight's contention that he had merely presented to OCB the official State Department policy as he was instructed to do. Among those who submitted depositions to this effect was the then Under Secretary of State, General Walter Bedell Smith. MacKnight is still with State and is currently assigned to East African Affairs. (140-3155-43, 50)

Meanwhile, Corso's good friend General Trudeau has not been idle. The 8-1-60, edition of the "Evening Tribune," a San Diego, California, daily newspaper reported that General Trudeau advised a press conference that attempts had been made to sabotage Atlas missiles with wrenches and sandwiches. He said this was probably the work of "people with communist leaning." On 8-3-60, both the Air Force and the Army denied there had been any such attempts. When interviewed by the FBI on that same day, General Trudeau said he had no personal knowledge regarding any sabotage to Atlas Missiles. He said that while en route to San Diego by plane on 8-1-60, he read in an unrecalled magazine an item which stated a sandwich had been found in a sterile pipe in a missile, and he referred to this in his speech and his press conference. He said he certainly hoped Mr. Hoover and the FBI had suffered no inconvenience or embarrassment because of his remarks. He claimed he was misquoted by the press. (98-45521-4)

On 3-20-64, General Trudeau told the FBI he had received a report from [redacted] (Ret.) in Washington, D. C., that a mutual friend named [redacted] said arms were being smuggled into the U.S. on ships flying the Liberian flag. These ships were being used to ship wheat to Russia and General Trudeau said the arms were for the use of the "Black Muslims" in the civil rights struggle. Trudeau said he advised [redacted] to bring this information to the immediate attention of Philip Corso in Senator Strom Thurmond's office.

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Bureau Agents working in conjunction with [REDACTED] eventually determined this was another instance where Trudeau and his friends began on the basis of supposition and ended up reporting their suppositions to Federal agencies as facts. There was nothing but some wild imagination connected with this episode; however, it took time, money and manpower expended over a period of a month or more to determine this fact. (62-105211-5 Serials 5 through 17)

It is felt that Philip Corso has probably "sold" himself to Congressman Feighan as an intelligence expert. Based on his past history, if he is placed on the staff of the Immigration and Nationality Subcommittee, we can expect another spate of wild accusations--this time about how communists are engaged in thwarting the policies of immigration and naturalization in the U.S. Too, it would seem that Corso is "coaching" Feighan on how to combat criticism of the former's history of biased personal attacks on all those he decides are un-American.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you (Mr. DeLoach) be permitted to meet with Representative Michael A. Feighan and attempt to set the record straight with respect to Philip Corso.

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Jus.  
K  
JRM  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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.

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Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of 62-110017-X

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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

62-110017-2

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
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- 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

Democratic Congressman Michael A. Feighan (Ohio) reputedly is interested in employing captioned individual for the staff of the Immigration and Nationality Subcommittee of the House. Feighan is Chairman of this Subcommittee.

By letter dated 2-6-65, Representative Feighan advised Mr. Hoover he had seen a memorandum from Acting Attorney General Katzenbach to Congressman Celler concerning Corso's background which he took exception to, terming it a violation of the latter's civil rights. Feighan desires to meet with the Director and discuss this matter; however, it is felt there is no necessity for Mr. Hoover to take time away from his busy schedule for this. It is believed the matter can be handled by having Mr. DeLoach meet with Feighan and set him straight with respect to Philip J. Corso.

Corso is well known to the Bureau. He fancies himself as an expert in the intelligence field and has a history of wholesale accusations against many people and many agencies of the Federal Government of plotting to subvert the Nation. He has caused many agencies, including the FBI, to expend much manpower, money and effort to disprove some of his injudicious accusations. He has enlisted the aid of such people as General Arthur Trudeau (Ret.) in his campaigns against various individuals. He apparently has now convinced Mr. Feighan that he is a badly needed intelligence expert.

There is attached a detailed memorandum of the past history of Philip Corso with emphasis on his excesses in conducting a personal war against what he considers to be security risks. Examples of his injudicious actions and his lack of good judgment are set out in detail. For example, we recently came into possession of a letter Corso had written in which he accused the Director of tapping Senator Strom Thurmond's telephone lines and of permitting the FBI to be used as a political tool by the current Administration. When confronted by you (Mr. DeLoach) with this communication, Corso admitted authorship but said it was never meant to get out. He lamely attempted to explain the letter away by saying it was meant as a joke. You firmly emphasized to him that it was a pretty poor joke.

Enclosure

Mr. DeLoach  
HHA:jks (6)

MAR 26 1965

MAR 22 1965

REC 53 62 - 1700 3

MAR 10 1965

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Jones to DeLoach  
Re: Philip J. Corso

Included in the detailed memo is some pertinent background on General Trudeau and Mr. Feighan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director authorize Mr. DeLoach to meet with Representative Michael Feighan and, using the background set forth in the attached detailed memorandum, set the record straight with the Congressman concerning Philip J. Corso.

*[Handwritten initials and marks: a large stylized signature, "AM", a checkmark, and "GRC"]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

- Tolson
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TO: Mr. Mohr

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

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

DATE: February 17, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFIED BY *COGNITIVE/BB*

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X-1

per OGA letter dated 3/31/99

UNCLASSIFIED  
3/8/84 by SP7 mac/g  
FOIPA 236334

Mr. Jones memorandum to me dated 2-11-65 reflected that Congressman Michael A. Feighan had written to the Director under date of 2-6-65 advising he had seen a memorandum from Attorney General Katzenbach to Congressman Celler concerning the background of one Philip J. Corso. Feighan took exception to this memorandum terming it a violation of Corso's civil rights. Feighan stated he desired to meet with the Director and discuss this matter. Referenced memorandum recommended that the Director not take time to discuss this matter with Feighan but that I should meet with Feighan and set him straight with respect to Corso.

As a matter of background, as previously indicated in referenced memorandum, Corso is a self-styled intelligence expert who retired from the military approximately 3 years ago, and he has been working as one of Senator Strom Thurmond's many assistants. He has been somewhat of a thorn in our side because of self-initiated rumors, idle gossip and downright lies he has spread to more or less perpetuate his own reputation as an intelligence expert. His activities so far as we are concerned are:

REC-9 405-1103-31  
4-60510

(1) In 1955 he furnished the FBI a list of 122 individuals alleged to be "Fabian Socialists" or communist sympathizers who were in policy positions in the United States Government. He was assisted in these allegations by General Arthur G. Trudeau, who was removed as Assistant Chief of Staff, Military Intelligence, because of conflicts with Allen Dulles. There was insufficient evidence to prove the validity of the allegations made by Corso. Nevertheless, Corso and Trudeau disseminated this information outside the Executive Branch of the Government and the matter was not handled in a secure or prudent manner.

MAR 22 1965

MAR 8 1965

(2) Senator Eastland, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a good friend, told me in strict confidence in February, 1964, that he had learned from a "source" that Lee Harvey Oswald was an FBI informant. Senators Dirksen and Hruska had also been given this information. The Director had me spend considerable time and trouble running down this rumor only to find out that the "source" was Corso. When confronted, Corso complained that sources within the CIA had given him this information. He refused to identify the sources. The Director noted at this time, "Corso is a rat."

MAR 26 1965

EDD:bsp (3)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CRIME RESEARCH

CONTINUED - OVER

*W. L. ...*



DeLoach to Mohr memo, 2-17-65  
RE: PHILIP J. CORSO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In Congressman Feighan's letter to the Director, Feighan claimed that I (DeLoach) threatened Corso by telling him that if he did not reveal his sources he would be brought before the Warren Commission. This is true. I did threaten Corso and would do it again. I felt that the only way to make him tell the truth on the record was to possibly get him on the witness stand. I not only threatened him but also told him that he was a poor representative of a background which supposedly possessed intelligence experience. In this latter incident, the Director had me see Senators Eastland, Dirksen and Hruska and give them the correct facts so that the record could be set straight. As a matter of fact, I had to see Senator Dirksen in the hospital inasmuch as he was suffering from a bleeding ulcer at this time, however was greatly concerned about this matter.

(3)

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. During this particular incident, Congressman Feighan, at Corso's suggestion, interviewed

(4) Perhaps the most disturbing incident of our experience with Corso was the fact that on 10-30-64 the Associate Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization advised the FBI that an employee of his had found a carbon copy of a letter on the streets of Capitol Hill addressed to the Director dated 10-28-64. This communication was signed by Corso who gave his title as Research Assistant to Senator Strom Thurmond. This letter 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 FBI was involved and being used as a political tool by the present Administration. Corso said this incident was particularly appalling since I (DeLoach) had personally assured him that the FBI did not illegally monitor telephones on Capitol Hill. The letter went on to say that it is obvious that I am lying. With the Director's approval, on 11-3-64 I cornered Corso with SA [redacted] as a witness. Corso admitted that he had written this communication. He tried to explain it away as a joke and stated that he had dictated this letter when he was sitting around one night with three of Senator Thurmond's assistants and they had nothing else to do. He claimed that he thought all copies had been destroyed. We took him to task in no uncertain terms at this time. He left in a very embarrassed and rebuffed manner.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DeLoach to Mohr memo, 2-17-65

RE: PHILIP J. CORSO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~

BACKGROUND OF CURRENT SITUATION:

Congressman Feighan, who is obviously impressed with Corso, now desires to hire Corso as a staff member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization of the House Judiciary Committee. Congressman Feighan's letter to the Director dated 2-6-65 complaining about the letter he had previously received from the Attorney General about Corso, obviously stems from the fact that Feighan will not be allowed to hire Corso while damaging information concerning Corso is a matter of record in Chairman Celler's office. It is also obvious that Corso wrote Feighan's letter to the Director and that Corso is once again attempting to stir up trouble. He is a shifty-eyed individual who is extremely hard to pin down.

ATTEMPTED CONTACT WITH CONGRESSMAN FEIGHAN:

At 5:30 p. m. 2-16-65 I called Congressman Feighan. I told him the Director had received his letter dated 2-6-65 and that I would like very much to discuss this matter with him. The Congressman first replied in the affirmative. He then interrupted the conversation asking me to wait a moment. He obviously put his hand over the phone, however, he could be heard snapping his fingers and asking someone in the background if they thought it would be all right for him to see DeLoach of the FBI. The Congressman then came back on the phone and stated that in his letter of 2-6-65 he had requested to see Mr. Hoover and he thought it would be better if he did not see anyone else. I told the Congressman that I was fully conversant about the facts of this matter and desired only to give him our side of the story. He stated he did not wish to discuss the matter with me and that he would talk only with the Director. It appears obvious that Corso was in the room with the Congressman at the time of our telephone conversation.

This is the first time in 12 years that a member of Congress has refused to see me concerning a matter. It is obvious that Corso realizes that I will lay the facts on the line with Congressman Feighan. He, therefore, has persuaded Feighan not to see me. Our relationship in the past with Feighan has been cordial. Feighan, however, is given to sensationalism and wild claims in handling matters pertaining to intelligence. On 5-13-64 we contacted Feighan to determine the basis for his statement that "There are communists in high places in the CIA and the State Department and it is time to get rid of them." During our contact he became extremely flustered and stated he needed to marshal his facts. He faithfully promised to get in touch with the FBI and furnish this information. He never did. We know, of course, that Feighan constantly leaks information to [redacted] of the [redacted] is the sensational type reporter who constantly is distorting facts in order to make lurid headlines.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DeLoach to Mohr memo, 2-17-65  
RE: PHILIP J. CORSO

ACTION:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~

There appears to be three different courses of action we can take in this matter: (1) The Director can comply with Feighan's request and grant him an appointment. I believe it is undesirable for the Director to waste his valuable time on such shoddy tactics perpetrated by Corso. (2) We can see Chairman Emanuel Celler of the House Judiciary Committee and explain our feelings concerning Corso (As stated above, the Attorney General has written Celler concerning Corso. This letter caused Feighan to write the Director.) (3) We can ignore Feighan's request for an appointment with the Director and let the facts on the record concerning Corso stand as they are. Considering the three alternatives, I recommend that we ignore Feighan and his obvious "love affair" with Corso.

*Agree*  
✓

*Am*  
✓

✓

*gmc*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

*Handwritten:* b7c, [Signature]

- Tolson
- Belmont
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- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
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- Gandy

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 19, 1965

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: PHILIP J. CORSO  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Corso is the unreliable individual who has endeared himself to Congressman Michael Feighan (D-Ohio), to the extent that Feighan is desperately trying to arrange for Corso to become a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization. This is a Subcommittee under the supervision of the House Judiciary Committee of which Congressman Emanuel Celler (D-NY) is the Chairman.

Our files reflect considerable information on Corso (memoranda of 2/11/65 and 2/17/65, attached). Feighan has attempted to get in touch with the Director regarding this matter. In his letter to the Director dated 2/6/65, Feighan claimed that Corso's civil rights had been violated. The Director approved the recommendation in referenced memorandum 2/17/65 that under the circumstances we ignore Feighan's request for an appointment.

While talking with [redacted] of the Attorney General's Office this morning, I told him I understood that the Department was also involved in this matter. [redacted] then detailed to me the background.

[redacted] told me that Chairman Celler had requested the Attorney General to furnish information concerning Corso. Based upon this request the Department asked us for a name check on November 5, 1964. We sent the Department a memorandum concerning the results of this name check on November 10, 1965.

[redacted] mentioned that the Attorney General showed Chairman Celler the information we furnished the Department. [redacted] stated the Attorney General may have left a memorandum with Chairman Celler concerning Corso. [redacted] continued that Celler obviously used this information to prevent Feighan from hiring Corso. As a result, there is currently a big battle between Feighan and Celler regarding this matter. The Attorney General has sided with Chairman Celler against Feighan.

[redacted] stated that Feighan has also gotten into recent difficulty with the White House and that the President is well aware of the fact that Feighan is a "nut."

Enclosures

RECORDED  
MAR 22 1965

62-110017-3X  
5 MAR 3 1965

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. Jones

CDD:dgs (4)

66 MAR 26 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

CRIME RESEARCH

DeLoach to Mohr Memorandum, 2/19/65

RE: PHILIP J. CORSO  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

b7c [redacted] mentioned that the only potential difficulty in this matter lies in the fact that Feighan may some day become Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, inasmuch as he will succeed Celler when Celler retires or passes on. [redacted] stated, nevertheless, that the Attorney General is siding with Celler in this dispute.

Based on the above facts, I am even of the stronger opinion that our recommendation, and the Director's approval of this recommendation, is even more sound that we should not see Feighan or Celler and that the Director should not waste his time by seeing Feighan. We have furnished the basic facts in this matter to the Department and the Department should be the one involved, not the FBI.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

*PM*

*[Signature]*

✓ I concur.

*[Signature]*

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ON INTR. DIV.  
REC'D