This reference is an article from the Chicago "Daily Times" for 8/22/40 entitled "Fear U.S. Harbors Biggest 5th Column" which was made available to the Bureau by [redacted] This article was the final of a series of four articles made public by Secretary of Navy Knox, as part of the national defense program. Col. William J. Donovan, having just returned from a mission abroad on behalf of Secretary Knox, wrote these articles in collaboration with Edgar Mowrer, foreign correspondent. b7C

61-7560-11245
(96)
SI 62-58216-1125
(94) (Article from Washington "Evening Star", 8/22/40)

This reference is a letter from Col. William J. Donovan, an attorney at 2 Walls St., NYC, dated 8/22/40, NYC enclosing a letter he had received from [redacted] This letter set out information regarding a German whose last name was Fischesser. This individual had just bought a lake and surrounding land in Otsego County and had spent considerable money on the place although he only lived there in the summer. b7C

On 8/29/40 letters were directed to both [redacted] and Col. Donovan stating that an Agent from the Albany Field Office would call upon [redacted] for further information.

b7c

65-29330-2
(96)

The 8/23/40 issue of "Hemisphere", city and state not given, carried an article which stated that Roosevelt's announcement of pending exchange of aged U.S. destroyers for British bases, and the Canadian - U.S. mutual defense agreement, dramatically brought to light the results of lengthy secret talks. Not made public, however, was the name of Roosevelt's negotiator. No diplomat, the man who was sent to speak for the President in London was Col. "Wild Bill" Donovan, World War I commander of New York's Fighting 69th. Material for Donovan's newspaper articles on "European Fifth Column" was gathered during conversations with King George, Prime Minister Churchill and dozens of lesser British dignitaries.

Above article is one of several newspaper clippings making up this serial.
64-1000-9X
(67)

On 8/29/40 Congressman Wright Patman from Texas appeared before a Special Hearing of the HCUA. Patman referred to a report by Col. William Donovan and Edgar Mawrer on the "fifth columns" in the U.S. which appeared in an unidentified newspaper on 8/22/40 under the following headline: "Strong 'Fifth Column' In United States could Be Our Undoing - Hitler conspiring for World Dominion - Immense Suns Spent for Propaganda". The full text of the above article is set out in this reference.

Dies Committee Report,
Vol. 14, pg. 8201
(74)

In the latter part of 1941 [redacted] Rockefeller Center, NYC, advised Bureau Agent that Count John de Perdicari was a very good friend of Col. "Bill" William Donovan. [redacted] met Donovan at a cocktail party given by Count de Perdicari at 410 Park Ave., NYC in September 1940. Donovan was believed to have been asked to use his influence in obtaining a visa for Count de Perdicari to return to Italy.

b7D

NY Rpt., 12/17/41
Re: [redacted] was; Alien;
Esp-1
65-31008-11
(27)

b7C

On 9/26/40, Dr. Gerhardt Alois Westrick allegedly paid $20,000 to Thorkild Reiber who in turn transferred this sum to the campaign manager for Martin Dies.
(Source not given)

A confidential source advised the NY office that Col. William Donovan was Reiber's confidential adviser throughout his difficulties over his associations with Westrick and could probably furnish pertinent details concerning Reiber's financial dealings, although it was not deemed advisable to interview Col. Donovan at that time.

Memo for the Director, 6/8/[illegible]
No caption given
65-10325-152
(48)

On 10/10/40 an unknown outside source in NYC, made available information concerning the Council For Democracy. Col. William Donovan was listed as a member of the board of this council. Raymond Gram Swing, head of the Board of Directors of the Council For Democracy stated that the purpose of the council was to make democracy worth fighting for.

Blind Memo, 10/25/40
Re: Council for Democracy
94-1-18911-7
changed to
100-184069-X8
(38)

TOP SECRET

This reference is a letter to the Director dated 10/16/40 signed Bill (William J.) Donovan on the letterhead of Donovan, Leisure, Newton and Lumbard, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, 2 Wall St., NYC. In this letter Donovan furnished information which he had received from [redacted] concerning the presence in this country of certain French contacts, and suggested [redacted] as a contact for information. Donovan also stated that Frank Knox had asked that they get together for luncheon sometime soon. (b)(a)

b-6
b7C

This letter was acknowledged on 10/12/40 and the luncheon invitation accepted.

66-2542-6582X
(107)
SI 100-6407-1
(75)

This reference is a letter dated 10/18/40 from William J. Donovan, an attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, to Mr. Hoover regarding a Baron Franz Von Recum who asked Donovan's advice on obtaining residence in the U.S. This letter was acknowledged 10/24/40.

65-31063-1
(92)

TOP SECRET

This reference is a letter dated 10/24/40 from William J. Donovan, Attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, regarding a man named Henry F. Miller who was charged with smuggling narcotics from Mexico. Letter acknowledged 11/8/40.

12-0-4439
(77)

On 10/21/40 Mr. Hoover telephonically contacted Col. William J. Donovan in response to his call. Donovan mentioned a young lady who had lunch with them and stated that she was suspicious of a Mr. Hammond. She had advised that Hammond had said something about coming to her place and she sent him a telegram that she could not have him, but the telegram came back that he was in Halifax. She later told him that she had attempted to send the telegram and this caused him great concern. He asked her to give him the record of all the time he had been in her home. From these actions she concluded that someone was checking on him. [illegible]

Memo from Mr. Hoover
to Mr. Tamm and Mr.
Clegg dated 10/21/40
No caption given
65-8946-2407
(82)

On 10/24/40 Col. William J. Donovan called from NY and talked with Mr. Tamm, concerning an individual who gave his name to Thorkild Rieber as Watts and stated he was a Federal Inspector. Donovan was advised that the Bureau had no agent in that vicinity by the name of Watts.

Memo for the Director,
10/24/40
No caption given
65-27244-6
(83)

This reference is an undated memo from an unidentified outside source,* place not given, received in early November 1940. This memo stated that when Col. William Donovan returned from his trip abroad where he had been sent by Secretary of Navy Knox, the President and Ben Smith met Donovan and talked with him. Smith said Donovan told him that when the first blitzkrieg hit London that London would collapse. Donovan later said that he had talked to Smith but that he had said that in his opinion the British would stop the Nazis.

65-7357-30
(28)

* [illegible]

115

This reference is a letter dated 11/8/40 from William J. Donovan, Attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, to Mr. Hoover enclosing a letter which Donovan had received from [redacted] of Texas. [redacted] letter set out information concerning Goro Matsuoka, 3120 Buena Vista St., San Antonio, Texas, who was a newphew of Yosuke Matsuoka, Foreign Minister of Japan.

b7C

Letters of acknowledgement were sent to both [redacted] and Donovan on 11/26/40.

65-31402-1
(91)

This reference is a letter dated 11/8/40 from William J. Donovan, an attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, inquiring as to the attitude of Draft Board officials toward draft registrants going overseas with the British. On 11/22/40 Donovan was advised by letter that the Draft Administration had formulated no policy on this matter.

25-30-3
(97)

This reference is a booklet entitled, "Fifth Column Lessons for America" by Col. William Donovan and Edgar Mowrer with the introduction written by Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy. This booklet published by the American Council on Public Affairs, 1734 Dye St., Wash., D.C., was received at this Bureau 11/25/40.

61-7969-108[illegible]
(9[illegible])

imc

In the latter part of August or the early part of September 1943 [redacted] was interviewed by Bureau Agents concerning Torkild Rieber, officer in charge of foreign sales and the Texas Marine Department of the Texas Company, prior to his resignation in 1941. [redacted] stated that Col. William Donovan traveled with Rieber on one or more occasions throughout Germany and was introduced by Rieber to important persons in Germany and later used these contacts for his own military missions in Central Europe.

b7D

[redacted] stated Donovan and Rieber were the best of friends and suggested that Donovan be interviewed regarding Rieber. Prior to Rieber's resignation from the Texas Company he was represented by Col. William Donovan whose services were compensated in the sum of $6,000 by the Texas Company.

NY Rpt., 10/7/43
Re: Torkild Rieber, was,
Registration Act, Denaturalization proceedings -
G, Neutrality Act
65-27244-81
(12)

In 1941 a list of persons on the personal mailing list of Ulric Bell and his organization, the Fight for Freedom Committee, included the name of Col. William J. Donovan.

Source not given
Bureau Memo, 5/15/41
No caption given
100-24167-2
(81)

117

TOP SECRET

This reference is an unidentified report dated 1/25/41 setting out data obtained from a confidential source close to the German Embassy, entitled "European Situation." This report stated that "Wild Bill" Donovan would prove disappointing to the President in his missions to Bulgaria and Greece as an emissary of the President. Details as to discussions with the heads of these countries set out. (U)

The above information was furnished to Major General Edwin M. Watson, Secretary to the President on 1/28/41.

66-5424-3-217
(65)

On 1/29/41 the NYC PD advised that an investigation had been conducted concerning Count John Perdicari (believed to be a German spy) who had been in the US allegedly since 1934 as a representative of Piccioli (a tobacco firm in Italy). During a personal interview with the investigator Perdicari said the purpose of Col. William Donovan's journey to Europe was to "feel out" various nations as to a United States of Europe. He said that Col. Donovan was sent by Secretary Knox and that the State Dept. was receptive toward sponsoring such a movement.

b-6
b7c

NY Rpt., 9/9/41
Re: [redacted]
was, etal;
Esp-I
65-31008-5
(29)

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

This reference is an unidentified report dated 2/15/41 entitled "European Situation" and setting out data obtained from a confidential source close to the German Embassy. This report stated that on Col. Donovan's visit through the Balkan area he (Donovan) told the leaders of the countries in this section that he was the direct representative of the President of the U.S. and warned them that if the axis powers should be defeated these countries could look forward to conciliatory and beneficial powers. Donovan told them that if they played with the axis powers and were defeated, they could not look for favor from Great Britain and the U.S. (W)

The above information was furnished to Major General Edwin M. Watson, Secretary to the President; The Secretary of Navy; Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle; Assistant Attorney General Matthew F. McGuire and Solicitor General Biddle on 2/18/41.

66-5424-3-229
(28)

On 3/10/41 the NY office advised that Col. William J. Donovan was believed to be making an investigation of [redacted] with a view of utilizing his services and that [redacted] became disturbed when he learned of the investigation. It was agreed that an inquiry of Donovan would be made concerning this matter.

Memo for the Director, 12/10/41
No caption given
61-7566-3119
(116)

A translation from the Russian daily paper for 3/17/41 the "Russky Golos" published at 64 East 7th St., NYC, carried a news item which stated, "William Donovan, unofficial Washington observer in Europe, confers with Spanish officials about American aid to Spain."

100-21318-A
"Russky Golos", 3/17/41
(28)

TOP SECRET

The NY "Times" for August 19 to 22, 1940 carried a series of articles by Col. William J. Donovan and Edgar Mowrer, material for which was obtained by Col. Donovan when he was sent to London at the request of Secretary of Navy Knox. The articles described German "fifth column" methods. Donovan was Coordinator of Information in 1941, which became Office of War Information in 1942.

The Seattle "Post - Intelligencer" for 4/20/41 listed Col. William J. Donovan as a sponsor of the Fight for Freedom Committee.

Seattle Rpt., 5/29/50
Re: [redacted]
SM-C
100-23795-120 pgs.
13,18
(103)

This reference is a letter dated 5/13/41 from William J. Donovan, attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, to Mr. Hoover enclosing a letter dated 5/12/42 which Mr. Donovan had received from [redacted] NYC. This letter stated that [redacted] could furnish possible valuable information to our government. Donovan's letter was acknowledged 5/19/41.

b6
b7C

65-35339-11
(101)

Col. William J. Donovan was one of the founders of the American Friends of Yugoslavia, Inc., which was incorporated in NYC on 5/1/41 to relieve suffering Yugoslavia.

(Source not clearly stated)
NY Rpt., 3/7/44
Re: The American Friends of Yugoslavia, Inc., aka; IS-C
100-182760-5
(99)

On 6/4/41 Mr. James Magee called this Bureau and advised he had sent a letter to the Director on 6/2/41 requesting a speaker for a mass meeting in Pittsburgh during the latter part of June. According to Mr. Magee this rally was to be held in opposition to the America First Committee and "Wild Bill" Donovan was to be one of the speakers.

Mr. Magee was advised that this letter would be called to the Director's attention as soon as it arrived at the Bureau.

Bureau memo, 6/4/41
No caption given
100-4712-67X2
(66)

On Saturday night prior to 6/24/41 [redacted] b7D called Mr. Foxworth and advised that he had heard a radio broadcast which stated that "Wild Bill" Donovan had been appointed head of a new secret intelligence service, which was to be staffed by representatives from the Justice, Treasury and State Departments which would work closely with the army and navy.

Memo for the Director,
6/24/41
No caption given
62-64427-X2
(65)

The Washington "Times Herald", date not given, carried an article entitled "Donovan Heads U.S. Intelligence" which stated that President Roosevelt had commissioned Col. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan a Major General in the U.S. Army to supervise American military intelligence and to ally it with the British secret service. A time stamp on the back of this reference indicated it was received in Mr. Hendon's office 6/25/41.

66-8700-A
(66,107)

123

On 6/25/41 observance by a Bureau Agent at Room 629 of the Newsweek Bldg. in NYC revealed that [redacted] told [redacted] that (Col. William) Donovan offered money to Yugoslavia to fight. Col. Donovan was called "Wild Bill" because he was such a sissy, according to [redacted]

b7C

NY Rpt., 8/19/41
Re: [redacted] was, etal;
Esp-G
65-6946-7018 pg. 39
(26)

In the summer of 1941 information was received that Atherton Richards, regarded in Honolulu as a brilliant executive, financier and economist, ~~who was~~ President of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, was associated with William J. Donovan. (Source not given)

This reference contains the following notation: "I understand from Donovan he is to be his right hand man on administration. H."

Memo for the Director,
7/19/41
No caption given
62-63816-2
(81)
SI 62-3816-1
(81)

On 4/2/50 Joseph Barnes was interviewed by Bureau Agents at which time he advised that in the summer of 1941 he went to work for Col. William "Wild Bill" Donovan in the office of Coordinator of Information in NYC.

WFO report, 4/4/50
Re: Owen Lattimore
Esp-R
100-24628-405 p. 7
(54, 66)

125

This reference sets out information concerning the newspaper, "The New Leader" published in NY. Attached to this memo is an article from the above newspaper of 7/12/41 by Edward Loring entitled, "Donovan Heads New Office To Speed Counter Espionage." This article stated that Col. William J. Donovan had been named Coordinator of Information, and included a picture of Col. Donovan as well as details of the new counter espionage office.

Memo for Mr. Nichols,
7/16/41 with above news-
paper clipping
No caption given
61-5124-9
(118)

The Congressional Record for 7/31/41, page 6651 carried the following remarks by Senator Wheeler with reference to his (Wheeler's) prosecution by the Department of Justice: "'Wild Bill' Donovan, who is in the Department of Justice, is the man who conducted my prosecution. Mr. Donovan is now head of the Gestapo in the United States. That is the proper place for him, because he knows how such things should be done. He worked with Burns, and with all the slueths in the Department of Justice when they were raiding the offices of the late Senator Caraway, the late Senator Walsh, and old 'Battling Bob' LaFollette. So he is a fitting man to head the Gestapo in the United States."

Memo for the Director,
8/1/41
Re: The Congressional
Record
66-1731-103X2
(62)

12

ARMY

OK to release

A confidential informant of MID who was designated as "E" advised that on 8/1/41 he had conferred with Del Fungo Giera, wa. Peter Brenner who was under indictment in the Southern District of NY on charges of impersonating a Gov't. officer. Mr. Charles T. Lark, Attorney for Giera, was attempting to make an appointment with Col. William Donovan in order for Giera to give Donovan the details of his case. Giera advised that Lark claimed he had something on Col. Donovan, and if Donovan refused to interview Giera, then Lark would make a public matter of him.

Col. William J. Donovan, Coordinator of Information, was given details of above ~~interview~~ threat in a Bureau letter dated 10/8/41.

NY Let 9/29/41 b7C
Re: [redacted]
was; Impersonation
47-1863-97
(27,88)
SI 1st paragraph above
47-1863-79
(65) (name searched as Wild Bill Donovan)

[redacted] b7C

SECRET

b-6
b-7C

[redacted]

Tesur log, date not given, Washington, D.C. entitled H Summary Informant # not given 65-6165-1-79 (51)

On 8/19/41 [redacted] of Col. (William) Donovan's office called and stated that Col. Donovan desired that the Bureau be advised that a man named [redacted] at the Mayflower Hotel, [redacted] had come to Col. Donovan's office on 8/18/41. [redacted] said he knew a group which was operating a smuggling ring in the Everglades of Florida, and that they were smuggling Germans in from Cuba or somewhere. [redacted] had been unsuccessful in getting an interview with Naval officials. [redacted] said Col. Donovan wanted someone from Navy or FBI to talk with [redacted] at the Mayflower Hotel and determine whether or not something should be done about the matter.

b-6
b-7C
b-7D

[redacted] was advised this was ~~war material~~ within the jurisdiction of INS.

Bureau memo, 8/19/41 No caption given 100-39572-1 (51)

6-30-53 URGENT

SAC NEW YORK
WASHINGTON FIELD (BSM)

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SR. ADVISE DATE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT SUBMITTED AND IDENTITY OF REPORTING AGENT.

HOOVER

CC 2 WFO (BSM)

MLI:dlj

JUN 30 6 24 PM '53
RECEIVED

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Carbo
Hoover
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Sandy

RECORDED-92 77-58706-38

TELETYPE
JUN 22 1953

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU FPG

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK	6/30/53	6/23,24,25/53	THOMAS J. LARDNER

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, aka: "Wild Bill" Donovan	SPECIAL INQUIRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WILLIAM D. MITCHELL advised that appointee has detested him since HERBERT HOOVER appointed him Attorney General. Appointee's first law partner, FRANK G. REICHLE of Buffalo, was indicted during late 1920's or early 1930's on worthless bond deal. Appointee asked MITCHELL to intervene. MITCHELL wrote letter to FGJ pointing out spotless character and reputation of REICHLE. No court action instituted at that time, however, REICHLE was re-indicted in 1931 or 1932. Appointee again asked MITCHELL to intervene. MITCHELL refused. REICHLE tried and acquitted. MITCHELL considers appointee loyal, capable and brilliant and knows no reason why he should not have responsible government position. Judge CHARLES D. LAWRENCE, U. S. Customs Court, recommends most highly. The Honorable HERBERT HOOVER recommends appointee most highly having known him since 1925; knows none of circumstances of indictments returned against REICHLE or appointee's intervention in affair.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Washington Field teletype to New York, 6/22/53.

DETAILS: WILLIAM D. MITCHELL, Attorney, 20 Exchange Place, advised that he has known the appointee for approximately 30 years in mostly a professional relationship. He stated that both served in the Department of Justice during the CALVIN COOLIDGE Administration from 1924-1928. Mr. MITCHELL stated that he was Solicitor General and the appointee Assistant to the Attorney General. At this time both were very friendly and got along well together.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

77-58706-39

JUL 1 1953

24

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2-Bureau
1-New York (77-16713)

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—55265-2

However, Mr. MITCHELL stated their feeling for each other became strained when in his official capacity he had occasion to alter some of the legal briefs that the appointee drew. The appointee resented these alterations and advised Mr. MITCHELL of his resentment. During the Presidential campaign of 1928 the appointee aided Mr. HOOVER, being a loyal Republican, and after his election hoped that he would be appointed Attorney General. However, in Washington political circles at this time his, Mr. MITCHELL'S, name was prominently mentioned as the new Attorney General. Mr. MITCHELL stated that when these rumors began spreading he called in the appointee and explained to him that he did not want the job, had no desires of obtaining it, and had done nothing to secure the appointment.

However, a short time later Mr. MITCHELL was called to the home of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court HARLAN FISKE STONE, who along with President-elect HOOVER who was also there, asked him to take the Attorney Generalship. Mr. MITCHELL told them of his plans to return to private practice which negated his taking the Attorney General's position. However, Justice STONE and Mr. HOOVER persuaded him to take the job, which he did.

From that time on the appointee detested him, feeling that he had "undercut" him, the appointee, to get the Attorney Generalship. As a result of Mr. MITCHELL'S appointment, the appointee early in 1929 resigned from the Department of Justice and returned to New York City to found his law firm.

One of the appointee's first partners was FRANK G. REICHLE, now a practicing attorney in Buffalo, who maintained the Washington office of the partnership. In the late 1920's or early 1930's Mr. REICHLE was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington as a result of a worthless bond deal. Mr. MITCHELL stated a few other individuals were also indicted but he could not recall their identity. REICHLE protested his innocence stating that although the other individuals who were indicted resided at the same address as he, he had no connection with them.

The appointee at this time called upon Mr. MITCHELL in his partner's behalf and asked him to have the indictment quashed. Mr. MITCHELL told the appointee that he could not do this, but wrote a letter to the Federal Grand Jury pointing out the spotless character and reputation of REICHLE and also of his high standing in the community. As a result of this letter, no action was taken against REICHLE.

However, in 1931 or 1932 REICHLE was re-indicted on the

same charge and once again the appointee asked Mr. MITCHELL to intervene. The appointee at this time was campaigning for the governorship of New York State. Mr. MITCHELL refused, telling the appointee to let the court action take its course. REICHLE was tried and acquitted. Mr. MITCHELL could not recall the outcome of the trials of the other individuals involved, but believed they were convicted. All court records of this action are maintained in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

Mr. MITCHELL considers the appointee to be a very capable and brilliant person and knows of no reason why he should not be given a responsible government position. He believes that the present position to be the Ambassador to Thailand. He considers the appointee's loyalty to be unquestioned.

CHARLES D. LAWRENCE, Judge, United States Customs Court, 201 Varick Street, advised that he has known the appointee since 1928 when both were serving in the Department of Justice. He stated that his association with the appointee was professional and not very close. He stated that he has seen the appointee twice in the last five years. He stated further that the appointee was quite disappointed when he was not made Attorney General by HERBERT HOOVER.

Judge LAWRENCE recommended the appointee most highly as to his character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He stated that the appointee has a notable record of public service and recommends him for a responsible government position. He knew nothing derogatory concerning the appointee.

The Honorable HERBERT HOOVER, former President of the United States, Waldorf Towers, advised SA ROBERT J. JACKSON that he has known the appointee since 1925 when he was an Assistant to the Attorney General in the Cabinet of CALVIN COOLIDGE. The appointee subsequently served as an Assistant Attorney General to his Attorney General, WILLIAM D. MITCHELL, but resigned in 1929 to return to New York City. Since that time they have maintained their association and constantly keep in touch with each other. Mr. HOOVER recommended the appointee most highly as to his character, reputation, ability and loyalty to the United States Government. He stated that he knew none of the circumstances surrounding the indictments returned against FRANK G. REICHLE, the appointee's former law partner, and the attempts made by the appointee to have them quashed. He suggested that his Attorney General, Mr. MITCHELL, be interviewed in this regard. Mr. HOOVER knew nothing derogatory concerning the appointee and recommended him for a responsible government position.

- RUC -

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Top secret control # HQ-80-201

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 6/30/53

FROM : SAC, New York (77-16713)

SUBJECT: WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, aka: "Wild Bill" Donovan SPECIAL INQUIRY

(ATTENTION: INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION)

TOP SECRET

Reference is made to report of SA THOMAS J. LARDNER, 6/19/53, New York.

The following information in regard to the appointee is being brought to the Bureau's attention, and due to the nature of it is not being reported in the details of the referenced report.

[redacted] (TS) [redacted] (TS) [redacted] (TS)

b-1

On 10/3/49 JOHN W. ENGLISH, Attorney, 1415 G. Daniel Baldwin Building, home address, 2450 South Shore Drive, both in Erie, Pennsylvania, advised that when General DONOVAN set up OSS, comprised the organization of some 30 branches. ENGLISH was in the Field Photographic Branch. He stated that on numerous occasions he was warned by his superiors in this branch that the personnel of the Visual Presentation Section were endeavoring to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Field Photographic Branch. The personnel of the Visual Presentation Branch were suspected Communists or fellow travelers, and while they had no direct evidence to substantiate this claim, their opinion was based on the following.

1. Their branch was the only branch that maintained collection boxes for Russian War Relief.

-40

Classified by 3832

Exempt from GDS Category 2,3

Date of Declassification Indefinite

TJL:BJG:FPG

RECORDED-02

24 JUL 1953

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

TOP SECRET

document #1

TOP SECRET

Letter to Director
NY 77-16713

2. They were anxious to hire colored personnel.

3. In conversation between the enlisted personnel of the Field Photographic Branch and the Visual Presentation Branch, the personnel of the Field Photographic Branch were impressed with the radicalism of the personnel of the Visual Presentation Branch.

4. About this time, the winter of 1944-1945, CARL MARZANI, one of the members of the Visual Presentation Branch, was exposed by the "Washington Times-Herald."

The above information was previously furnished administratively by report of SA BRONI S. MACYS entitled "J. DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was., et al, Perjury, Internal Security - R, Espionage - R," at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On 9/9/50 CIA reported that General DONOVAN (believed to be General WILLIAM DONOVAN, formerly of OSS) advised [redacted] that he wished to introduce him to General SMITH of CIA and requested [redacted] to send all intelligence material which he might receive to him [redacted] forwarding to the General. General DONOVAN had been trying to contact [redacted] to discuss intelligence matters. (K) (S) classified per CIA sec dtd 9-13-83.

[redacted] (X) (S)

b-1
1
b-6
b7C
b7D
1

The information attributed to CIA was previously reported to the Bureau by report of SA FRANCIS J. GALLANT entitled [redacted] was; Espionage - IS," 2/28/51, New York City.

The information attributed to informant [redacted] was previously furnished to the Bureau by report of SA FRANCIS J. GALLANT entitled [redacted] was; Espionage - IS," 2/13/52, New York City.

Due to the type of information furnished by the above sources they are reported by letter and not by report.

Reference is made to Bureau teletype to New York, dated 6/18/53.

Released as erased by letter dated 12-9-85 (190-5134-74)

TOP SECRET

Letter to Director
NY 77-16713

b1
b7C
b7D

[redacted]

The information attributed to [redacted] on 3/19/52 was previously furnished to the Bureau by letter dated 4/7/53 entitled [redacted] Espionage - IS & R."

During the course of the investigation of [redacted] under a Security Matter - C classification, the following was noted:

On applying for employment at the "New York Daily News," [redacted] listed GEORGE W. POLK, c/o "Herald Tribune," Paris, France, as a reference.

Mr. LUKE CARROLL, in charge of correspondents at the "New York Herald Tribune," advised on 1/28/53 that the GEORGE W. POLK who had been a correspondent for the Paris "Herald Tribune," which is owned by the "New York Herald Tribune," was identical with the GEORGE POLK who had been killed in Greece in 1948.

POLK'S death was the object of many investigations by various agencies, since he went into Greece to investigate the "civil war" taking place there.

The "Voice of Freedom" for June 1948 reports POLK was killed because he despised the Greek Fascist Government and wanted to broadcast an interview with the leader of the Greek guerillas. According to this article, the Greek Government did not want the American people to hear this broadcast.

The "Voice of Freedom" is a publication cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, page 224, "to be Communist initiated and controlled or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin solar system."

The "New York Compass" on 8/5 and 7/52 carried a story by I. F. STONE relative to the POLK murder and subsequent investigations. The story alleges the Overseas Writers Club was investigating leads indicating the Rightists were responsible for the murder and that the Greek Government influenced the American Embassy in Athens in having the chief investigator recalled. STONE charged "a hush up" of the case. The Overseas Writers Club was chaired by WALTER LIPPMAN and General WILLIAM DONOVAN.

TOP SECRET

10b 2 SECRET

TOP SECRET

Letter to Director
NY 77-16713

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In view of the nature of the above information it is being furnished by letter to the Bureau. It is being left to the discretion of the Bureau to have WALTER LIPPMAN interviewed concerning his knowledge of General DONOVAN.

The above information was previously reported to the Bureau by SA John L. Fagan on 2/17/53 in the report entitled [redacted] was.; Security Matter - C" at NYC.

10b SECRET

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 1 1953

TELETYPE

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 6 1 420 P

DIRECTOR URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVON, AKA., SI. ATTENTION. INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION SI SECTION. RE AIR-TEL JUNE THIRTY. FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF SA THOMAS J. LARDNER SUBMITTED JUNE THIRTY, FIFTY-THREE. SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT CONTAINING INTERVIEWS OF [redacted] AND [redacted] [redacted] WILL BE SUBMITTED JULY SECOND. AGENT LARDNER HANDLING

b7d

BOARDMAN

77-58706-41

RECORDED-92

END

7
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NY R 6 WA JCD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU

JMR

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK	7/1/53	6/29/53	THOMAS J. LARDNER

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, aka: "Wild Bill" Donovan	SPECIAL INQUIRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: T-2, advised that his experience with the appointee has not been favorable. He considers appointee an "anti-anti-Communist" and would not recommend. T-3, considers appointee a "bubblehead" who never got tough with Communists in O.S.S. He would not recommend appointee.

- RUC -

REFERENCE Report of SA THOMAS J. LARDNER, June 19, 1953

DETAILS T-2, an informant of known reliability, an individual who is well versed in Communist activity in the labor union field, advised that his experience with the appointee has never been favorable. The appointee has always been "soft and mushy" in his treatment of Communists and Communist infiltration of organizations under his control. T-2, s tated that the appointee would never take a firm stand against Communists in government, unions, or the United Nations. T-2, considers the appointee an "anti-anti-Communist." T-2, stated that his comments were not based on specific incidents, but on general impression and observation. T-2, would not recommend the appointee.

T-3, an informant of unknown reliability, a newspaper columnist, who has general knowledge of various activities throughout the United States, advised that he has made inquiry concerning the appointee for his own use. The appointee's law firm represents a public relations firm, Allied Syndicate, whose clients are JOHN L. LEWIS, FRANK COSTELLO, and LAUGHLIN CURRIE. The appointee was alleged to have h aded a recent committee which was to ask President

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77-58704-42

RECORDED-92

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DATE 12-18-84 BY

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—50255-2

EISENHOWER to oust Senator JOSEPH MC CARTHY. The appointee's law firm also was alleged to represent the Chinese Generals who absconded with millions of Nationalist China's funds. T-3, considers the appointee a "bubblehead" who never got tough with the Communists in Office of Strategic Services. T-3, would not recommend the appointee.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

T-2 [redacted] who was interviewed by SA ROBERT J. JACKSON b7D

T-3 [redacted] who was interviewed by SA ROBERT J. JACKSON b7D

Due to the type of information furnished, these individuals desired their identities be protected.

140

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
WASHINGTON, D. C.	7-3-53	6/26,29,30;7/1, 2/53	WILLIAM E. FENIMORE saw

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN	SPECIAL INQUIRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Result of HCUA file review set forth. EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER, Syndicated Columnist, reports favorably concerning DONOVAN.

RUC

REFERENCE: New York teletype dated June 18, 1953.
Report of SA WILLIAM E. FENIMORE dated June 26, 1953 at Washington, D. C.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

ELIZABETH TERRILL BENTLEY testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on July 31, 1948. She admitted she was a former member of the Communist Party. She also testified that she operated as courier in a Soviet espionage network between 1941 and 1945. She identified DUNCAN CHAPLIN LEE of the Office of Strategic Services as one of her contacts in Washington, D. C. Miss BENTLEY explained there was a circle of lawyers around General DONOVAN at OSS and LEE was one of them. He provided her all types of information. This included highly secret information on what OSS was doing; that they were trying to make secret negotiations with governments in the Balkan bloc in case the war ended; that they were parachuting people in Hungary; that OSS people were being sent into Turkey to operate in the Balkans and that General DONOVAN was interested

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in having an exchange by the NKVD and OSS.

She further testified that LEE was a member of the Communist Party and had worked in General DONOVAN's law firm prior to coming into the OSS. LEE testified under oath before the Committee on August 10, 1948. He acknowledged acquaintanceship with Miss BENTLEY, stating she was known to him as HELEN GWANT.

LEE testified:

"Mr. Chairman, Miss ELIZABETH BENTLEY in her recent testimony before the House Un-American Affairs Committee has accused me of being a Communist and of supplying her with secret information concerning the OSS.

"I want to say categorically that I am not and have never been a Communist and that I have never divulged classified information to any unauthorized person. I had been an assistant in the legal offices of General DONOVAN before the war; I had come to the OSS with him as his assistant; and I was therefore particularly aware of a requirement of personal loyalty to him in such matters along with my loyalty to the service of the United States.

"During the war my wife and I met Miss BENTLEY socially at the home of a friend. We met a great many people at this time. Thereafter we saw Miss BENTLEY off and on for a little over a year. Our acquaintance was entirely a social one.

"I made it a rule during my service with OSS never to discuss anything that had not previously appeared in the newspapers, and then only to the extent made public. I certainly kept strictly to this rule in any talks I ever had with Miss BENTLEY.

"I was in the Army and in the OSS for nearly four years and during that time worked day and night, both in Washington and overseas, to further our war effort. I am sure that General DONOVAN and the other officers under whom I served will confirm the fact that my war record is one of which I can feel justly proud. While in the Army I rose from the rank of first lieutenant to lieutenant colonel. I have received several official commendations. I know that I have served my country with complete loyalty and to the best of my ability and it is a profound shock to find my name and war record attacked by the irresponsible charges of this woman.

"It is hard for me to believe that Miss BENTLEY's statements are those of a rational person. In trying to recall my acquaintance with Miss BENTLEY I have been puzzled that I do not remember that she ever tried to get any information out of me. In view of that fact I am tempted to believe that Miss BENTLEY used her social relationship with me merely to help her misrepresent to her employers for her own personal build-up that she had access through me to someone of the importance of General DONOVAN."

In addition to the above LEE related he was employed in DONOVAN's law firm for three years and was then brought into the OSS by the General. In OSS his work fell into two phases--partly legal advisor and partly a member of the so-called secretariat. LEE testified he had been sent by General DONOVAN on two missions to China. On the first mission, in 1943, he did not get to China; on the second mission, about the middle of July 1945, he went out with General DONOVAN and returned the first week in October.

Lee

No further pertinent information regarding the relationship between General DONOVAN and LEE was noted in the House Committee on Un-American Activities records.

THOMAS J. DONEGAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, advised SA JOSEPH M. KELLY of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on September 14, 1946 that he had learned through a confidential source that General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN had issued a statement to the press that he still had confidence in DUNCAN C. LEE. More specific information was not available.

unclassified per CIA ltr 9-13-83 sp4 glw/alr 10/27/83 Lee

The files of T-1, another government agency which conducts personnel and security-type investigations, reflect LEE was separated from active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of the United States on January 24, 1946 and on April 3, 1946, upon the recommendation of General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. LEE's Army record reflects he registered for separation from the Army on January 29, 1946 and was on terminal leave until May 4, 1946, the actual date of separation. (4)

Released as is by letter dated 12-9-83 (90-5134-74)

Miss BENTLEY also testified that in addition to LEE those of her contacts who were employed in OSS were MAURICE HALPERIN, Head of the Latin American Division in the Research and Analysis Branch; J. JULIUS JOSEPH, Japanese Division; HELEN TENNEY, Spanish Division; and DONALD NIVEN WHEELER.

Hal

Miss BENTLEY testified HALPERIN was a Communist from whom she collected dues. He furnished various types of information inasmuch

as he had access to that which OSS was getting on Latin America; had access to cables which OSS was getting in from its agent abroad; had access to world-wide information of various sorts and reported to her that OSS had an arrangement with the State Department whereby he could see State Department cables on vital issues.

In a signed statement furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents on November 30, 1945, Miss BENTLEY stated her last meeting with HALPERIN occurred in 1944. He was still employed by OSS. In early 1945 "JACK", her Russian contact at that time, told Miss BENTLEY that HALPERIN had been accused by General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN of being a Soviet Agent. After this accusation, according to "JACK", HALPERIN failed to appear two or three times to meet his contact.

Background information inserted into the House Committee on Un-American Activities record during Miss BENTLEY's testimony indicated HALPERIN was employed in OSS between September 1941 and October 1945 and in the Department of State between October 1945 and June 1946.

On the morning of January 24, 1946, during the course of a physical surveillance of HALPERIN by FBI Agents JOSEPH C. WALSH, JR., FRANCIS GALLANT, and FRANCIS D. OBRIEN, he was observed leaving his New York hotel and proceeding to 2 Wall Street, the address of the law firm of Donovan, Leisure, Newton and Lombard. He remained in the building approximately a half hour. This law firm is that with which General DONOVAN is connected.

With reference to J. JULIUS JOSEPH, Miss BENTLEY testified she had collected Communist Party dues from him. Based upon his employment, he was in a position to furnish her information regarding both Japan and Russia. JOSEPH's wife was also employed by OSS for approximately six months in the Publicity Division. She, too, was a Communist.

No testimony directly relating JOSEPH with DONOVAN was given by Miss BENTLEY.

Miss BENTLEY informed the House Committee on Un-American Activities that HELEN R. TENNEY was a Communist who was first employed at the OSS, Spanish Division, and later handled the Balkans when the Spanish Division "sort of dried up". No testimony directly relating HELEN TENNEY with DONOVAN was given by Miss BENTLEY.

No testimony directly linking DONALD NIVEN WHEELER with General DONOVAN was related by Miss BENTLEY.

DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on August 3, 1948. He said he joined the

Communist Party in 1924 and for a number of years prior to his break with the Party in 1937, served in the Communist Party underground, principally in Washington, D. C. The original purpose of the underground, according to CHAMBERS, was infiltration of the American government. Espionage was one of its eventual objectives. The head of the underground at the time CHAMBERS knew it was NATHAN WITT, an Attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. Later JOHN ABT became the leader.

NATHAN WITT testified under oath before the Committee on August 20, 1948. He stated he graduated from Harvard Law School in June 1932 and immediately entered the private practice of law. He so remained until joining the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in 1933. WITT stated he joined the legal staff of the old National Labor Relations Board in February 1934. He terminated his federal employment in December 1940, at which time he was Secretary of the National Labor Relations Board. WITT declined to state whether he knew CHAMBERS.

In testifying before the Committee on September 1, 1950, WITT stated that during the 1932-1933 period when he was following the private practice of law, he was employed in the office of WILLIAM J. DONOVAN.

WARREN P. SCHMIDT, Secretary, Committee on Socialism and Communism, United States Chamber of Commerce, testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 26, 1947. He entered a report of the United States Chamber of Commerce entitled "Communists Within the Government" into the record. In this report under the heading "Espionage and Sedition" the following appears:

"As late as March 1945 (Major General WILLIAM J.) DONOVAN had defended the employment in OSS of such well-known Communists as IRVING GOFF, IRVING FAJANS, MILTON WOLFF, and VINCENT LOSSOWSKY. A number of pro-Communists in the OSS were subsequently blanketed into strategic intelligence posts in the State Department. Granting the General's thesis that 'no foreign policy can be stronger than the information upon which it is based', it can be seen how considerations of war-time expediency have endangered our safety."

*Washington Evening Star March 13, 1945 and Washington Post July 19, 1945.

The following Associated Press release appears on page seven of the July 19, 1945 issue of the "Washington Post".

"ARMY DEFENDS 16 OFFICERS LISTED AS BEING TINGED WITH COMMUNISM"

"Sixteen commissioned and non-commissioned Army officers were listed by the Counsel of a House subcommittee yesterday as having backgrounds which 'reflect Communism'. The War Department immediately replied that the men have proved their loyalty to America.

"The names were given a House Military Subcommittee by Chief Counsel H. RALPH BURTON in private testimony. The subcommittee released them yesterday without comment of its own."

Among those listed were:

"Lieutenant IRVING FAJANS, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, 'on honor roll of Young Communist League members fighting the Spanish Civil War.

"Lieutenant IRVING GOFF, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, 'speaker, Communist School, New York City' and a member of 'the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain'.

BURTON testified that "evidence shows that this organization was Communist dominated....."

"Lieutenant VINCENT LOSSOWSKI, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, 'fought with Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spanish Civil War'.

"Lieutenant MILTON WOLFF, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, 'National Commander of the Communist-controlled Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade'.

"Major General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, Director of the Office of Strategic Services, also issued a statement in which he praised the 'outstanding service' of four of the officers in organizing resistance groups in enemy-occupied northern Italy. These officers served with an OSS unit of the Fifteenth Army Group. They were GOFF, WOLFF, LOSSOWSKI and FRANS."

A close reading of the March 13, 1945 edition of the Washington Star to which the above report makes reference failed to locate the news item mentioned. There appears on page 8C of this edition an Associated Press dispatch headlined:

"GENERAL BISSELL DEFENDS OFFICERS ACCUSED OF BEING COMMUNISTS

"The Chief of Army Intelligence declared today that 10 Army officers accused in newspaper articles of Communist affiliations are now 'actually engaged in upholding the United States by force'.

"Eight of the 10 are in combat overseas, Major General CLAYTON BISSELL told an investigating House Military Subcommittee."

Among the names listed were: First Lieutenants IRVING GOFF and VINCENT LOSSOWSKI; Second Lieutenants IRVING FAJANS and MILTON WOLFF.

During a hearing by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on "Communist infiltration of Hollywood Motion Picture Industry" on April 10, 1951, STERLING HAYDEN, a self-admitted Communist Party member testified he left the Paramount Motion Picture Company in Hollywood on September 5, 1941. Shortly after he contacted the then Colonel DONOVAN, Co-ordinator of Information (later OSS). He was informed we were training United States troops and volunteers in Guerrilla Warfare. As a result of this, HAYDEN went to Scotland where he trained as a paratrooper. HAYDEN said he got in touch with DONOVAN because sometime previously he had sailed around the world with DONOVAN's son.

House Committee on Un-American Activities files contained a copy of the September 1939 issue of the magazine, "Equal Justice", volume XIII, number 7, a monthly publication by the International Labor Defense, 112 East 19th Street, Room 504, New York City. Page four of the issue lists Colonel WILLIAM J. DONOVAN of New York as one of the head members of the National Committee of Sponsors. Numerous other nationally prominent persons were listed as members of the committee.

In its 1948 report, page 224, the California Committee on Un-American Activities classifies "Equal Justice" among the publications which the Committee found "to be Communist initiated and controlled, or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin solar system".

EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER was interviewed by the reporting agent on July 1, 1953. MOWRER stated he writes a column on foreign affairs which is nationally syndicated three times a week. MOWRER states he has long been associated with the Chicago Daily News and was closely acquainted with FRANK KNOX, now deceased, Publisher of the Chicago Daily News and Secretary of the Navy in 1940.

MOWRER recalls he was in Europe in 1940 when he received instructions from KNOX to meet Colonel WILLIAM J. DONOVAN in London.

It was MOWRER's understanding that DONOVAN was in England to survey the defense preparations and attitudes of the British people for Secretary of the Navy, KNOX. In England MOWRER furnished much information to DONOVAN particularly that pertaining to politics. DONOVAN made his contacts among military personnel. As an outgrowth of this association, MOWRER wrote a pamphlet regarding Nazi Fifth Column Activities in England. This pamphlet was printed listing both MOWRER and DONOVAN as its authors.

MOWRER states he has had some contact with DONOVAN from time to time since 1940. From reading recent newspaper articles he understands DONOVAN is under consideration for appointment as Ambassador to Thailand. MOWRER states he is of the opinion this is an excellent choice because of the sensitive situation existing in that part of the world. He states DONOVAN's military background and political "know how" will serve in the best interests of the United States in that part of the world. He commented that anything he might report concerning DONOVAN personally would be of a favorable nature.

RUC

WFO 77-4319

TOP SECRET

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The information pertaining to THOMAS J. DONEGAN on page three of this report was taken from the New York report of SA JOSEPH M. KELLY dated November 29, 1948 in the matter "GREGORY", Espionage-R. DONEGAN was reporting in connection with the activities of the Grand Jury meeting at that time. (WFO file 100-17493-5898)

unclassified per CIA letter 9/13/83. [illegible] 10-24-83

[T-1, referred to on page three of this report, is identified as Central Intelligence Agency Security files. [redacted] (TS)

The information regarding the physical surveillance referred to on page four of this report appears in Washington Field Office letter to the Director dated December 11, 1945 entitled "NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER, wa, et al, Espionage-R". In connection with the statement appearing on page four of this report that no testimony directly linking WHEELER with General DONOVAN was related by Miss BENTLEY, the Bureau may desire to note that in September 1942 OSS advised over the signature of DONOVAN that no additional action was being taken as a result of reports under the Hatch Act which had been made available. This is reflected on page 135 of the Washington Field Office report of SA FLOYD L. JONES dated January 11, 1946 in the matter captioned "NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER, wa, et al, Espionage-R.

Released as excised by letter [illegible]

TOP SECRET

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Ladd

DATE: July 7, 1953

FROM : Mr. Rosen

SUBJECT: EISENHOWER INVESTIGATIONS

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Sizoo
Miss Gandy

This is to advise as to the reason why the investigation on the individual listed below has taken more than 3 weeks to complete.

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
Investigation ordered 6-15-53
Status - In dictation

While the investigation has generally been highly favorable to General Donovan there is considerable information regarding his "soft policy" toward pro-Communists in the Office of Strategic Services at the time he headed that Agency. There is also information as to pro-Communist employees in his law firm. Running out and documenting this information has resulted in the delay in completing this case.

The summary has been dictated and is being typed and every effort is being made to transmit it by July 9, 1953.

77-58706-44

July 15, 1953

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

BY MESSENGER

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter dated June 12, 1953, there is attached a summary reflecting the results of the inquiries made by this Bureau concerning General William J. Donovan.

This investigation covers inquiries as to the character, loyalty, general standing, and ability of General Donovan but no inquiry has been made as to the source of his income.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Attachment

MLI:meb

77-58706-45

RECORDED-92

BY SPL. MSGR.
JUL 16
COMM - FBI

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July 15, 1953

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

BY MESSENGER

Honorable Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Adams:

By letter dated June 12, 1953, Honorable John Foster Dulles requested an investigation of General William J. Donovan. There is attached a summary reflecting the results of the inquiries made by this Bureau concerning General Donovan. A copy of this summary has been furnished to Mr. Dulles.

This investigation covers inquiries as to the character, loyalty, general standing, and ability of General Donovan but no inquiry has been made as to the source of his income.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Attachment

MLI:mcb

RECORDED-92 77-58706-46

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BY SPL. MESSENGER
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DIRECTOR

The Attorney General

July 15, 1953

Director, FBI

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

By letter dated June 12, 1953, Honorable John Foster Dulles requested an investigation of General William J. Donovan. There is attached a summary reflecting results of inquiries made by this Bureau concerning General Donovan. Copies of this summary have been forwarded to Mr. Dulles and Honorable Sherman Adams.

This investigation covers inquiries as to the character, loyalty, general standing, and ability of General Donovan but no inquiry has been made as to the source of his income.

Attachment

MLI:meb

77-58706-47

MAILED 7
JUL 16 1953
FBI - WASH.

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July 15, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN

I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Birth

No record for the birth of William Joseph Donovan could be located in the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics for the State of New York; however, the 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who in America" indicates that he was born at Buffalo, New York, on January 1, 1883, the son of Timothy P. and Anna (Lannon) Donovan. It was also noted in connection with various employment checks that Mr. Donovan lists his birth date as January 1, 1883, at Buffalo, New York. His parents have been dead since the early 1920's.

Education

The appointee entered Columbia College, 116th Street and Broadway, New York, New York, in September, 1903, and received an A.B. degree in June, 1905. He subsequently enrolled in the Columbia University Law School on September 25, 1905, and received an LL.B. degree on May 27, 1908. There was nothing of a derogatory nature noted in the appointee's scholastic record and none of his former professors were available for interview during the course of this investigation.

It was noted that Mr. Donovan has been a member of the Columbia College Alumni since 1922 and the Columbia University Law School Alumni since 1928. Mr. Theodore S. Ruggles, Assistant Director, Council on the Committee of Development and Research of Columbia University, said Mr. Donovan is presently the chairman of the above-named council. Mr. Ruggles said the appointee had been a special advisor to President Eisenhower when he was President of Columbia University. He said Mr. Donovan had been

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HLI:meb

-47

appointed to the position by President Eisenhower and further that the appointee has been very active in the above council and has been largely responsible for its success and effectiveness. He said he has worked closely with the appointee in the functioning of this organization and has found him to be an outstanding administrator, possessing an excellent character and reputation. He recommended him most highly and said he is a loyal American citizen whom he would recommend for a position of trust.

The appointee received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana, on June 2, 1929. The citation read as follows: "A lawyer and soldier, who has served his country well in high civil position and rare international distinction in the World War as leader of the famous 69th Regiment - Colonel William J. Donovan of Buffalo, New York."

Mr. Donovan was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, in 1930.

Employment

Mr. Donovan entered the practice of law at Buffalo, New York, in 1907 and was member of the following firms:

1917 - 1919	O'Brian, Donovan and Goodyear
1920	Donovan and Goodyear
1924 - 1925	Donovan, Raichle and Depew
1926 - 1931	Donovan and Raichle
1933	Donovan, Raichle and Randell
1934 - 1940	Donovan and Raichle

He was appointed United States Attorney for the Western District of New York at Buffalo on February 7, 1922. Persons contacted in the Buffalo area described Donovan as a man of great integrity whose word is his bond. As an example, they said while serving as United States Attorney, he had caused a raid to be made upon the lockers of fellow members of the Saturn Club. As a result, he was bitterly criticized by a number of prominent citizens and their animosity has continued to the present time. They said that this is an indication of the fact that his character is unimpeachable and that at no time has there ever been any suspicion that he was not the true patriot he is reported to be.

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Tele. Room
Holloman
Sizoo
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Frank G. Raichle, Jr., Genesee Building, Buffalo, New York, said he became acquainted with the appointee shortly after World War I and several years later they formed a partnership which continued until 1940 at which time Mr. Donovan entered upon employment with the Federal Government. He said, however, that from 1929 until the termination of the partnership, the appointee took practically no part in firm affairs, his only interest being in fees on pending matters of minor character.

Mr. Raichle said that while associated with the appointee, Mr. Donovan became United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. He recommended the appointee in the most laudatory terms. He said it is difficult to find words to adequately describe the excellent character of Mr. Donovan. In his opinion, the appointee is a man of impeccable honesty in his professional and personal relations. He said his habits are exemplary and he is a true patriot in fact as well as by reputation. With regard to specific traits of character, Mr. Raichle described Donovan as "indomitable, aggressive, and independent". He said his personality is "charming and magnetic" and he is an exceedingly capable attorney. In the latter regard, Mr. Raichle pointed out that while serving as United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, the appointee successfully tried a number of highly publicized cases and has been outstanding in appellate work. He concluded by stating that Mr. Donovan is versatile in all phases of legal practice.

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Mr. Donovan was employed on August 14, 1924, with the Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, as an Assistant Attorney General, at Washington, D. C. This employment was terminated on March 23, 1925, as an Assistant Attorney General by reason of appointment as Assistant to the Attorney

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General. He was employed as Assistant to the Attorney General from March 23, 1925, at Washington, D. C., until March 2, 1929, at which time he resigned.

William D. Mitchell, Attorney, 20 Exchange Place, New York, New York, said he has known Donovan for approximately thirty years in a professional relationship. He said both served in the Department of Justice during the Calvin Coolidge administration from 1924 to 1928 and were very friendly and got along well together. He said this feeling became strained when in his official capacity, he had had occasion to alter some of the legal briefs drawn up by the appointee. He said Mr. Donovan resented these alterations and so advised him.

Following the election of Herbert Hoover as President in 1928, Mr. Mitchell said he was called to the home of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Harlan Stone, who along with President-elect Hoover, who was also there, requested him to take the post of Attorney General in the Hoover administration. Mr. Mitchell said he acquiesced and from that time on the appointee detested him, feeling that he had undercut him to get the Attorney Generalship. As a result of this appointment, Mr. Donovan, early in 1929, resigned from the Department of Justice and went to New York City to found his law firm.

Mr. Mitchell also stated that in the late 1920's or early 1930's one of the appointee's law partners, Frank Raichle, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., as a result of a worthless bond deal. According to Mr. Mitchell Raichle protested his innocence stating that although the other individuals who were indicted resided at the same address as he, he had no connection with them. At this time, the appointee called upon Mr. Raichle in his partner's behalf and asked him to have the indictment quashed. According to Mr. Mitchell, he told Donovan that he could not do this but he wrote a letter to the Federal Grand Jury, pointing out the spotless character and reputation of Raichle and also pointing out his high standing in the community. As a result of this letter, no action was taken against Raichle.

However, in 1931 and 1932, Raichle was reindicted on the same charge and according to Mr. Mitchell, the appointee once again asked him to intervene. Mr. Mitchell said at this time the appoint was campaigning for the Governorship of New York and he had refused this request telling the appointee to let the court action take its course. It was his recollection that Raichle was acquitted.

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Mr. Mitchell said he considers the appointee to be a very capable and brilliant person and knows of no reason why he should not be given a responsible Government position. He considers his loyalty to be unquestioned.

Mr. Donovan served as Chief Counsel for the New York State Fuel Administration from September 27, 1922, until December 31, 1922, and received a flat fee of $5,000 for his services.

The 1953 edition of "Who's Who in America" indicates that the appointee was a member of the United States Delegation to the Customs Regulation Conference between the United States and Canada in 1923. Efforts to locate any specific record of this conference were unsuccessful.

On December 5, 1928, William J. Donovan was appointed by President Calvin Coolidge to act as a commissioner representing the United States in a conference to conclude a compact which would remove all causes of controversy among the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. He journeyed to Santa Fe, New Mexico, on December 19, 1928, and was elected chairman of the commission. The commission reconvened on January 22, 1929, and subsequently reached an agreement which was signed as a compact on February 12, 1929.

He was appointed United States Representative by President Coolidge on February 7, 1929, and was to participate in negotiations contemplated between the States of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, under an Act of Congress known as the "Boulder Canyon Project Act" approved December 21, 1928. He presided at a formal conference at Santa Fe, New Mexico, from February 14 to March 5, 1929, and at subsequent conferences. This commission failed to reach an agreement.

Mr. Donovan served as counsel to the Legislative Commission to revise the laws of New York State Public Service Commission in 1929. Honorable John Knight, United States District Court Judge, Western District of New York, Buffalo, New York, said he had appointed Mr. Donovan to the above position and for several months thereafter had worked in close collaboration with him on affairs of the commission. Judge Knight said he has a high regard for Mr. Donovan as an Attorney and as a man. He described him as an outstanding patriot of high principles, dependable and of excellent associates and reputation.

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Ralston R. Irvine, Senior Partner, Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard, Newton, and Irvine, 2 Wall Street, New York, New York, said he has been associated with Mr. Donovan since 1926 when both were in the Department of Justice. He said Mr. Donovan founded the firm which bears his name, in approximately 1929. He described him as one of the greatest living Americans from the point of service that he has rendered to the United States. Mr. Irvine says he knows nothing derogatory concerning the appointee and recommends him most highly for a position of trust.

The "Second Annual report of the National Meditation Board for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1936" lists arbitration hearings on August 12, 1935, in the dispute between the American Train Dispatchers' Association and the Boston and Maine Railroad over the question "Shall train dispatchers handle centralized traffic control systems from AR tower or shall such system be handled by train dispatchers?" Colonel William J. Donovan was the "neutral member" of the board which was also made up of S. F. Miller, Assistant General Manager of the Boston and Maine Railroad and O. H. Breese, Vice President, American Train Dispatchers' Association. Both of these individuals were contacted during the course of the current investigation and Breese said Donovan impressed him as a man of excellent character, fair-minded, honest, and an extremely loyal and patriotic American citizen. Mr. Breese recommended the appointee for a position of trust with the Government. Mr. Miller was unable to sufficiently recall the appointee to comment concerning him.

The 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who in America" indicates that Donovan was an unofficial observer for the Secretary of the Navy in Great Britain during July and August of 1940 and in Southeast Europe from December, 1940, to March, 1941. Efforts to locate any official record concerning the above employment was unsuccessful. The files of the Department of State do contain a telegram dated July 11, 1940, directed by the Department of State to the Ambassador at London informing him that the Secretary of the Navy desired to send Colonel William J. Donovan to England for a brief survey and report on certain aspects of the British defense situation. According to this source, Donovan was to leave the United States on July 14, 1940, and was to report to the Ambassador upon his arrival in London.

Department of State files also contain a telegram dated November 30, 1940, directed to the American Legation at Lisbon, Portugal, informing the Legation that Secretary of the Navy Knox had arranged for Colonel Donovan to make an observation

trip through the Mediterranean area and North Africa.

Mr. Donovan was appointed coordinator of information by President Roosevelt on July 7, 1941. On April 2, 1943, while Director of the Office of Strategic Services, he was officially recalled to active duty in the Army as a Colonel. On October 1, 1945, he was relieved as Director of the Office of Strategic Services and at that time held the rank of Major General. Nothing of an unfavorable nature concerning the appointee appears in the file covering the above period of employment.

Legal Background

William J. Donovan applied to take the New York State Bar examination on March 23, 1907. He took the examination on October 22, 1907, passed and was certified to the Fourth Judicial Department, Rochester, New York, on November 7, 1907. He was admitted to the Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department, Rochester, New York, during the November term, 1907, and filed an oath to practice as an attorney in New York State on December 24, 1907. He has been a member of the New York State Bar Association since 1914 and has continued his membership to the present time and is in good standing. No derogatory information concerning Mr. Donovan is contained in the files of the New York State Board of Law Examiners, or the New York State Bar Association.

Mr. Donovan was admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, Buffalo, New York, on April 22, 1913. He has been continually a member in good standing of the Erie County Bar Association, Buffalo, since September, 1909. No grievances have ever been filed against Mr. Donovan with this Bar Association. Mrs. Irene Tatu, Assistant Secretary of the Erie County Bar Association, says she has known the appointee by reputation as a highly capable attorney of excellent character and associates. She also said that his former partners were likewise highly regarded lawyers of excellent character and reputation.

The appointee was elected to membership in the New York City Bar Association on February 2, 1922, and has held the following offices: 1931 - 1934, on the executive committee; 1934, on the nominating committee, and since 1922 has been a sustaining member of the association. He has been a member of the New York County Lawyers' Association since 1929 and is presently a sustaining member in good standing. The Committee on Discipline, New York City, has no record of any action against the appointee and the Committee on Grievances of the Association of the Bar, the City of New York likewise contains no record of any action having been taken against Mr. Donovan.

Political Background

Mr. Donovan was the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York in the election of 1928, but was defeated by George Lunn. He was the Republican candidate for Governor of the State of New York in 1932 and was defeated by Herbert H. Lehman.

Marital Status

The appointee married Ruth Rumsey and they had two children, David Rumsey Donovan, age approximately thirty-five, who presently operates an experimental farm at Berryville, Virginia, and Patricia Donovan who was killed in an automobile accident about eleven years ago while attending college. Persons contacted advised that the appointee's wife was a member of a wealthy and socially prominent family and her brother, Dexter Rumsey, is President of the Erie County Savings Bank, Buffalo, New York. Persons who were acquainted with Mrs. Donovan described her as a loyal citizen of excellent character, reputation, and associates.

Service Record

The appointee served as an enlisted man in the New York State National Guard from October, 1911, until October 16, 1912, attaining the rank of Sergeant. On October 17, 1912, he was commissioned a Captain in the New York State National Guard and was subsequently mustered into Federal service at Governors Island, New York, on July 19, 1916, for duty on the Mexican border. He commanded the 3rd Squadron, McAllen, Texas, until October 15, 1916, when he became Judge Advocate. He commanded Troop I until mustered out of Federal service at Buffalo, New York, on March 15, 1917.

He again reported for duty on July 15, 1917. He held the rank of Major and was Adjutant of the 21st Infantry Brigade, 6th Division, New York State National Guard. In August, 1917, he was assigned to the 69th New York Infantry and at Camp Miller was placed in command of the 1st Battalion as the unit prepared for foreign service.

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Donovan entered the front lines in February, 1918, serving in numerous campaigns until severely wounded on October 15, 1918.

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He was subsequently promoted to Colonel on March 9, 1919, and placed in command of a regiment stationed in Germany. He served as inspector and instructor in the Provost Marshal General's Department in Paris, France; returned to the United States on April 21, 1919, and was demobilized at Hoboken, New Jersey, on May 14, 1919.

He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in France on October 14-15, 1918. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action from July 28-31, 1918. The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Mr. Donovan for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service. The brief contained in his file which was drawn up in 1926 indicated he was the only member of the Army awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Medal and Distinguished Service Cross for service performed during World War I.

He accepted appointment as a Colonel, Infantry, Officers Reserve Corps, on May 14, 1921, and was transferred to the Cavalry, Officers Reserve Corps, on February 4, 1922. He became a Brigadier General on March 24, 1943, as Director of the Office of Strategic Services. On December 7, 1944, he was promoted to Major General, the rank he held upon his release from active duty. He is now carried on the Army rolls as a Major General, Honorary Reserve

Results of Investigation

Interviews

In addition to the interviews which have been set forth above, the following individuals who were contacted during the course of this investigation highly recommended the appointee as to his character, loyalty, reputation, associates, and ability. Typical of these interviews are the following:

Lucius D. Clay, Chairman of the Board, Continental Can Company, 100 East 42nd Street, New York, New York, said he had worked closely with the appointee in Washington, D. C., during World War II and had visited with him both in Germany and New York on numerous occasions. He said he has the highest regard for his character, reputation, associates, and considers him to be an outstanding citizen of the United States whose loyalty is beyond question. He said his many successful associations with the United States qualified him for any top Government position.

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J. Edward Lumbard, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and a law partner of the appointee, said the appointee is the greatest patriot in the United States and the most decorated American civilian. He said the appointee has been entrusted with responsible and confidential positions by every President since Woodrow Wilson. He said in his opinion, the appointee would be the best representative the United States could send abroad as he has better contacts in foreign countries than any person in the United States with the possible exception of the President himself. Mr. Lumbard said the appointee has great qualities of imagination and resourcefulness. He also said he has an enormous amount of energy for a man seventy years old. He recommended him unqualifiedly for a position of trust with the Government.

Alexander Holtzoff, Judge, United States District Court, District of Columbia, said he was employed in the Department of Justice with the appointee. He said Donovan was and is a very dynamic person possessed of an abundance of well controlled and well directed energy. He said the appointee has a fine mind and is known as a very capable organizer. Judge Holtzoff summed up his comments by stating he would highly recommend Donovan for any position which the United States Government might consider him.

The Honorable Herbert Hoover, former President of the United States, Waldorf Towers, New York City, said he has known Mr. Donovan since 1925 and since that time has maintained his association with him and constantly keeps in touch with him. Mr. Hoover recommended the appointee most highly for a position with the Government and said he knew nothing derogatory concerning him.

Allen Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C., said he was closely associated with Mr. Donovan during World War II and found him to be a very aggressive, industrious, and capable individual. Mr. Dulles admitted from time to time he has had differences of opinion with Donovan but as far as he was concerned, it would not have any bearing in connection with any position the Government might have in mind for him. He emphasized that Donovan was an intense, and patriotic American and there was no doubt in his mind concerning his absolute loyalty to the United States Government. Mr. Dulles concluded by saying it was his understanding that Mr. Donovan was being considered for the position of United States

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James W. Ackell, Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard, Newton, and Irvine, 2 Wall Street, New York, New York.

Dr. James C. Bronbright, Professor of Economics, Columbia University, New York, New York.

Ugo Carusi, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the United States, Washington, D. C.

Russell Hardy, Attorney, 1820 Jefferson Place, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Norman J. Morrison, Attorney, 1632 K Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Charles D. Lawrence, Judge, United States Customs Court, New York, New York.

Edgar Ansel Mowrer, Syndicated Columnist, Washington, D. C.

An informant of known reliability* who is well versed in Communist activities in the labor union field advised that his experience with the appointee has never been favorable. He said that Donovan has always been "soft and mushy" in his treatment of Communists and Communist infiltration of organizations under his control. This informant said Donovan would never take a firm stand against Communists in the Government, Unions, or the United Nations. He said he considers him "anti-anti-Communist". The informant said his comments were not based on specific incidents but rather on general impressions and observations. This informant would not recommend the appointee for a position of trust with the Government.

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Another informant of unknown reliability,** a newspaper columnist who has general knowledge of various activities throughout the United States, advised during the course of this investigation that he had made inquiry concerning Mr. Donovan for his own use. He said the appointee's law firm represents a public relations firm, Allied Syndicate. According

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Ambassador to Thailand, and he personally feels that the appointee has the necessary background, independence, and ability to handle this job in a very capable manner.

In addition to the above interviews, the following persons who were contacted furnished similar comments.

Dr. Carlos C. Alden, Dean Emeritus of the University of Buffalo School of Law, Buffalo, New York.

James W. Persons, Official Referee in Bankruptcy, Western District of New York, Buffalo, New York.

Carlton A. Fisher, Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial Division, Buffalo, New York.

David W. Sowers, Campanile Apartments, Buffalo, New York.

William King, Secretary of the New York State Senate, Albany, New York.

Dr. Finla G. Crawford, Vice-Chancellor, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

Bethuel Webster, President of the Bar Association of the City of New York.

Breck P. McAllister, Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard, Newton, and Irvine, 2 Wall Street, New York, New York.

Otto C. Doring, Jr., Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard, Newton, and Irvine, 2 Wall Street, New York, New York.

Colonel Walter Bligh, Acting Secretary, Republican State Committee, 41 East 42nd Street, New York, New York.

Harry Hopkins, 1 Sutton Place, New York, New York.

Harry Smith, 1 Sutton Place, New York, New York.

Harry Robbins, 4 Sutton Place, New York, New York.

Henry DeForest Alexander, 4 Sutton Place, New York, New York.

Paul Hammond, 230 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

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to this informant, Mr. Donovan was alleged to have headed a recent committee which was to ask President Eisenhower to oust United States Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin. He further stated that the appointee's law firm was alleged to have represented the Chinese Generals who absconded with millions of Nationalist China's funds. This informant said he considers Donovan to be a "bubblehead" who never got tough with the Communists in the Office of Strategic Services. He would not recommend the appointee for a position of trust.

Information Concerning Employment of Pro-Communists in the Office of Strategic Services

Elizabeth Terrill Bentley testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on July 31, 1948, at which time she admitted that she was a former member of the Communist Party and operated as a courier in a Soviet espionage network between 1941 and 1945. She identified Duncan Chaplin Lee of the Office of Strategic Services as one of her contacts. She explained that there was a circle of lawyers around General Donovan at the Office of Strategic Services and Lee was one of them. According to her, Lee provided her with all types of information including highly secret information on what the Office of Strategic Services was doing. This information included such things as the fact that the Office of Strategic Services was trying to make secret negotiations with Governments in the Balkan group in case the war ended; that they were parachuting people into Hungary; that all Office of Strategic Services people were being sent to Turkey to operate in the Balkans and that General Donovan was interested in having an exchange between the Office of Strategic Services and Russia's NKVD. She further testified that Lee was a member of the Communist Party and had worked in General Donovan's law firm prior to coming into the Office of Strategic Services.

Mr. Lee testified under oath before the above committee on August 10, 1948, at which time he acknowledged acquaintanceship with Miss Bentley but categorically denied having ever been a Communist or ever having divulged classified information to any unauthorized persons. He said he was employed in General Donovan's law firm for three years and was then brought into the Office of Strategic Services by the General. He said he had been sent on two missions to China by General Donovan and on the first mission in 1943, he did not get to China but on the second mission in July, 1945, he went with General Donovan and returned the first

week in October, 1945. No further pertinent information regarding the relationship between the appointee and Duncan Lee was noted in the above records.

The records of another Government agency which conducts personnel and security-type investigations* reflect that Duncan Lee was separated from active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army on January 24, 1946, and on April 3, 1946, upon the recommendation of General Donovan was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. (4)

During another investigation by this Bureau, an informant of unknown reliability** who has access to information concerning the activities and individuals connected with the appointee's law firm advised in the early part of 1953 that he was well acquainted with Duncan Lee when Lee was employed with that law firm. He described him as an extremely nervous and timid individual who he believed lacked the personal courage to have been a Communist or to have engaged in espionage activities. He did say that Lee had been active in the affairs of the Russia War Relief because he had been assigned by the firm to assist in the corporate organization of this group. This assignment reportedly came about because of the interest of General Donovan and others in the law firm in the establishment of Russia War Relief.

This informant said that he and others had "teased" Lee because of this connection with the Russia War Relief; however, they did not attribute his connection with the organization to any particular interest in Communism or Soviet Russia. The fourth report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, California State Legislature, lists the Russian War Relief, Incorporated, as a Communist front organization and states on page 358 as follows: "While it is undoubtedly true that many well-intentioned loyal Americans were tricked into believing that the Russia War Relief was a bona fide American agency, the hard core of Communist influence and direction is evident".

Elizabeth Bentley also testified at the time referred to above that in addition to Duncan Lee, those of her contacts who were employed in the Office of Strategic Services were Maurice Halperin, head of the Latin American Division in the Research and Analysis Branch; J. Julius Joseph, Japanese Division; Helen

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* Central Intelligence Agency

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unclassified per CIA 9-13-83. SPF 10-28-83

Release of 25-15-64 letter dated 12-9-88 (190-5134-74)

Tenney. Spanish Division; and Donald Niven Wheeler. She said Halperin was a Communist from whom she collected dues and he furnished her with various types of information as he had access to that which the Office of Strategic Services was getting on Latin America; had access to world-wide information of various sorts and reported to her that the Office of Strategic Services had an arrangement with the State Department whereby he could see State Department cables on vital issues.

She said her last contact with Halperin occurred in 1944 at which time he was still employed by the Office of Strategic Services. Her Russian contact, "Jack", told her in early 1945 that Halperin had been accused by General Donovan of being a Soviet agent and, following this accusation, Halperin failed to appear two or three times to meet his contact. Background information inserted in the House Committee on Un-American Activities record during Miss Bentley's testimony indicated that Halperin was employed in the Office of Strategic Services from September, 1941, to October, 1945, and in the Department of State from October, 1945, to June, 1946.

With reference to J. Julius Joseph, Miss Bentley testified that she had collected Communist Party dues from him and based upon his employment he was in a position to furnish her information regarding both Japan and Russia. She said Joseph's wife was also employed by the Office of Strategic Services for approximately six months in the Publicity Division, and she too was a Communist. She gave no testimony directly relating Joseph with General Donovan.

Miss Bentley informed the House Committee on Un-American Activities that Helen B. Tenney was a Communist who was first employed in the Spanish Division at the Office of Strategic Services and later handled the Balkans. No testimony directly relating Helen Tenney with the appointee was given by Miss Bentley. Similarly, no testimony directly linking Donald Niven Wheeler with General Donovan was related by Miss Bentley.

Emerson P. Schmidt, Secretary, Committee of Socialism and Communism, United States Chamber of Commerce, testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 26, 1947, at which time he entered into the record a report of the United States Chamber of Commerce entitled "Communists within the Government". In this report appears the following:

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"As late as March, 1945, (Major General William J.) Donovan had defended the employment in the OSS of such well-known Communists as Irving Goff, Irving Fajans, Milton Wolff, and Vincent Lossowski. A number of pro-Communists in the OSS were subsequently blanketed into Strategic intelligence posts in the State Department. Granting the General's thesis that 'no foreign policy can be stronger than the information upon which it is based', it can be seen how considerations of war-time expediency have endangered our safety."

The "Washington Post" for July 19, 1945, on page 7, carries an article captioned, "Army Defends 16 Officers Listed As Being Tinged With Communism". The article went on to quote the War Department as saying that the men had proved their loyalty to America. The names were given to a House Military Subcommittee in private testimony which was subsequently released and included the following: "Lieutenant Irving Fajans, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, on the honor roll of the Young Communist League members fighting the Spanish Civil War.

"Lieutenant Irving Goff, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, speaker, Communist School, New York City, and a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain.

"Lieutenant Vincent Lossowski, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

"Lieutenant Milton Wolff, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, National Commander of the Communist-controlled Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

"Major General William J. Donovan, Director of the Office of Strategic Services, also issued a statement in which he praised the 'outstanding service' of four of the officers in organizing resistance groups in enemy-occupied Northern Italy. These officers served with an OSS unit of the 15th Army Group. They were Goff, Wolff, Lossowski, and Frans."

It is to be noted that the Young Communist League and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade have been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

During a hearing by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on "Communist infiltration of Hollywood Motion Picture Industries", on April 10, 1951, Sterling Hayden, a self-admitted

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Communist Party member testified he left the Paramount Motion Picture Company on September 5, 1941. Shortly thereafter, he contacted the then Colonel Donovan, Coordinator of Information and was informed that the United States was training troops and volunteers in guerrilla warfare. As a result of this, Hayden said he went to Scotland where he trained as a paratrooper. He said he got in touch with Donovan inasmuch as sometime previously he had sailed around the world with Donovan's son.

Miscellaneous

The House Committee on Un-American Activities files contain a copy of the September, 1939, issue of the magazine "Equal Justice" volume XIII, number 7, a monthly publication by the International Labor Defense, 112 East 19th Street, New York City. Page four of this issue lists Colonel William J. Donovan of New York as one of the head members of the National Committee of Sponsors. It was noted that numerous other nationally prominent persons were listed as members of that committee. In its 1948 report on page 224, the California Committee on Un-American Activities classifies "Equal Justice" as among the publications which the committee found "to be Communist initiated and controlled or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin solar system".

Nathan Witt testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on September 1, 1950, at which time he stated that during the 1932-33 period when he was following the private practive of law, he had been employed in the office of William J. Donovan. David Whittaker Chambers, in testifying before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on August 3, 1948, said he joined the Communist Party in 1924 and for a number of years prior to 1937, served in the Communist Party underground, principally in Washington, D. C. He said the original purpose of the underground was infiltration of the American Government. The head of the underground at this time, according to Chambers, was Nathan Witt, an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. It is to be noted that Witt, in testifing under oath before this committee on August 20, 1948, said he had formerly been employed by the National Labor Relations Board but declined to state whether he knew David Whittaker Chambers.

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Agency Checks

During the course of this investigation, the records of the following Government agencies were checked and either no information or no additional information to that previously set forth in this report was obtained.

G-2, Department of the Army

United States Civil Service Commission

Central Intelligence Agency

House Committee on Un-American Activities

Security Division, Department of State

United States Park Police

The records of the Passport Division, Department of State, reflect numerous passports have been issued to the appointee from 1928 to the present time in connection with official travel as a representative of the various branches of the Government with which he has been employed. No unfavorable information was contained therein.

Credit and Criminal

The records of the Credit Bureaus and law enforcement agencies covering the various places of education, residence, and employment of the appointee were checked and no unfavorable information was obtained.

Relatives

All persons contacted during the course of the investigation who were acquainted with the various members of the immediate

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Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
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Tracy
Laughlin
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Rm.
Holloman
Gandy

family of the appointee highly recommended them as to their character, loyalty, and reputation. It was determined that his brother, Timothy, who died about twelve years ago, was an outstanding citizen of Buffalo, New York. His other brother, Vincent, is reportedly a Catholic Priest, who for many years was assigned to New York City. An only sister of Mr. Donovan's, Loretta, lived for several years in Ohio but later moved to the Far West. Her first husband reportedly died and she has remarried but her present address is not known.

The records of the Credit Bureaus and law enforcement agencies covering the present places of residence of the appointee's son David and his wife Ruth were checked and no unfavorable information concerning them was found.

Tolson
LaFil
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Sizoo
Miss Gandy

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE No.

July 15, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN

I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Birth

No record for the birth of William Joseph Donovan could be located in the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics for the State of New York; however, the 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who in America" reflects that he was born at Buffalo, New York, on January 1, 1883, the son of Timothy P. and Anna (Lannon) Donovan. It was also noted in connection with various employment checks that Mr. Donovan lists his birth date as January 1, 1883, at Buffalo, New York. His parents have been dead since the early 1920's.

Education

The appointee entered Columbia College, 116th Street and Broadway, New York, New York, in September, 1903, and received an A.B. degree in June, 1905. He subsequently enrolled in the Columbia University Law School on September 25, 1905, and received an LL.B. degree on May 27, 1908. There was nothing of a derogatory nature noted in the appointee's scholastic record and none of his former professors were available for interview during the course of this investigation.

It was noted that Mr. Donovan has been a member of the Columbia College Alumni since 1922 and the Columbia University Law School Alumni since 1928. Mr. Theodore S. Ruggles, Assistant Director, Council on the Committee of Development and Research of Columbia University, said Mr. Donovan is presently the chairman of the above-named council. Mr. Ruggles said the appointee had been a special advisor to President Eisenhower when he was President of Columbia University. He said Mr. Donovan had been

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General. He was employed as Assistant to the Attorney General from March 23, 1925, at Washington, D. C., until March 2, 1929, at which time he resigned.

William D. Mitchell, attorney, 20 Exchange Place, New York, New York, said he has known Donovan for approximately thirty years in a professional relationship. He said both served in the Department of Justice during the Calvin Coolidge administration from 1924 to 1928 and were very friendly and got along well together. He said this feeling became strained when in his official capacity, he had had occasion to alter some of the legal briefs drawn up by the appointee. He said Mr. Donovan resented these alterations and so advised him.

Following the election of Herbert Hoover as President in 1928, Mr. Mitchell said he was called to the home of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Harlan Stone, who along with President-elect Hoover, who was also there, requested him to take the post of Attorney General in the Hoover administration. Mr. Mitchell said he acquiesced and from that time on the appointee detested him, feeling that he had undercut him to get the Attorney Generalship. As a result of this appointment, Mr. Donovan, early in 1929, resigned from the Department of Justice and went to New York City to found his law firm.

Mr. Mitchell also stated that in the late 1920's or early 1930's one of the appointee's law partners, Frank Raichle, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., as a result of a worthless bond deal. According to Mr. Mitchell, Raichle protested his innocence stating that although the other individuals who were indicted resided at the same address as he, he had no connection with them. At this time, the appointee called upon Mr. Mitchell in his partner's behalf and asked him to have the indictment quashed. According to Mr. Mitchell, he told Donovan that he could not do this but he wrote a letter to the Federal Grand Jury, pointing out the spotless character and reputation of Raichle and also pointing out his high standing in the community. As a result of this letter, no action was taken against Raichle.

However, in 1931 or 1932, Raichle was reindicted on the same charge and, according to Mr. Mitchell, the appointee once again asked him to intervene. Mr. Mitchell said at this time the appointee was campaigning for the Governorship of New York and he had refused this request telling the appointee to let the court action take its course. It was his recollection that Raichle was acquitted.

Ralston B. Irvine, Senior Partner, Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard, Newton, and Irvine, 2 Wall Street, New York, New York, said he has been associated with Mr. Donovan since 1926 when both were in the Department of Justice. He said Mr. Donovan founded the firm which bears his name, in approximately 1929. He described him as one of the greatest living Americans from the point of service that he has rendered to the United States. Mr. Irvine says he knows nothing derogatory concerning the appointee and recommends him most highly for a position of trust.

The "Second Annual report of the National Mediation Board for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1936" lists arbitration hearings on August 12, 1935, in the dispute between the American Train Dispatchers' Association and the Boston and Maine Railroad over the question "Shall train dispatchers handle centralized traffic control systems from AB tower or shall such system be handled by train dispatchers?" Colonel William J. Donovan was the "neutral member" of the board which was also made up of S. E. Miller, Assistant General Manager of the Boston and Maine Railroad and O. H. Braese, Vice President, American Train Dispatchers' Association. Both of these individuals were contacted during the course of the current investigation and Braese said Donovan impressed him as a man of excellent character, fair-minded, honest, and an extremely loyal and patriotic American citizen. Mr. Braese recommended the appointee for a position of trust with the Government. Mr. Miller was unable to sufficiently recall the appointee to comment concerning him.

The 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who in America" indicates that Donovan was an unofficial observer for the Secretary of the Navy in Great Britain during July and August of 1940 and in Southeast Europe from December, 1940, to March, 1941. Efforts to locate any official record concerning the above employment was unsuccessful. The files of the Department of State do contain a telegram dated July 11, 1940, directed by the Department of State to the Ambassador at London informing him that the Secretary of the Navy desired to send Colonel William J. Donovan to England for a brief survey and report on certain aspects of the British defense situation. According to this source, Donovan was to leave the United States on July 14, 1940, and was to report to the Ambassador upon his arrival in London.

Department of State files also contain a telegram dated November 30, 1940, directed to the American Legation at Lisbon, Portugal, informing the Legation that Secretary of the Navy Knox had arranged for Colonel Donovan to make an observation

J. Edward Lumbard, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and a law partner of the appointee, said the appointee is the greatest patriot in the United States and the most decorated American civilian. He said the appointee has been entrusted with responsible and confidential positions by every President since Woodrow Wilson. He said in his opinion, the appointee would be the best representative the United States could send abroad as he has better contacts in foreign countries than any person in the United States with the possible exception of the President himself. Mr. Lumbard said the appointee has great qualities of imagination and resourcefulness. He also said he has an enormous amount of energy for a man seventy years old. He recommended him unqualifiedly for a position of trust with the Government.

Alexander Holtzoff, Judge, United States District Court, District of Columbia, said he was employed in the Department of Justice with the appointee. He said Donovan was and is a very dynamic person possessed of an abundance of well-controlled and well-directed energy. He said the appointee has a fine mind and is known as a very capable organizer. Judge Holtzoff summed up his comments by stating he would highly recommend Donovan for any position which the United States Government might consider him.

The Honorable Herbert Hoover, former President of the United States, Waldorf Towers, New York City, said he has known Mr. Donovan since 1925 and since that time has maintained his association with him and constantly keeps in touch with him. Mr. Hoover recommended the appointee most highly for a position with the Government and said he knew nothing derogatory concerning him.

Allen Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C., said he was closely associated with Mr. Donovan during World War II and found him to be a very aggressive, industrious, and capable individual. Mr. Dulles stated from time to time he has had differences of opinion with Donovan but as far as he was concerned, it would not have any bearing in connection with any position the Government might have in mind for him. He emphasized that Donovan was an intense, and patriotic American and there was no doubt in his mind concerning his absolute loyalty to the United States Government. Mr. Dulles concluded by saying it was his understanding that Mr. Donovan was being considered for the position of United States

to this informant, Mr. Donovan was alleged to have headed a recent committee which was to ask President Eisenhower to oust United States Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin. He further stated that the appointee's law firm was alleged to have represented the Chinese generals who absconded with millions of Nationalist China's funds. This informant said he considers Donovan to be a "bubblehead" who never got tough with the Communists in the Office of Strategic Services. He would not recommend the appointee for a position of trust.

Information Concerning Employment of Pro-Communists in the Office of Strategic Services

Elizabeth Terrill Bentley testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on July 31, 1948, at which time she admitted that she was a former member of the Communist Party and operated as a courier in a Soviet espionage network between 1941 and 1945. She identified Duncan Chaplin Lee of the Office of Strategic Services as one of her contacts. She explained that there was a circle of lawyers around General Donovan at the Office of Strategic Services and Lee was one of them. According to her, Lee provided her with all types of information including highly secret information on what the Office of Strategic Services was doing. This information included such things as the fact that the Office of Strategic Services was trying to make secret negotiations with Governments in the Balkan group in case the war ended; that they were parachuting people into Hungary; that Office of Strategic Services people were being sent into Turkey to operate in the Balkans and that General Donovan was interested in having an exchange between the Office of Strategic Services and Russia's NKVD. She further testified that Lee was a member of the Communist Party and had worked in General Donovan's law firm prior to coming into the Office of Strategic Services.

Mr. Lee testified under oath before the above committee on August 10, 1948, at which time he acknowledged acquaintanceship with Miss Bentley but categorically denied having ever been a Communist or ever having divulged classified information to any unauthorized persons. He said he was employed in General Donovan's law firm for three years and was then brought into the Office of Strategic Services by the General. He said he had been sent on two missions to China by General Donovan and on the first mission in 1943, he did not get to China but on the second mission in July, 1945, he went with General Donovan and returned the first

week in October, 1945. No further pertinent information regarding the relationship between the appointee and Duncan Lee was noted in the above records.

The records of another Government agency which conducts personnel and security-type investigations* reflect that Duncan Lee was separated from active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army on January 24, 1946, and on April 3, 1946, upon the recommendation of General Donovan was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. (4)

During another investigation by this Bureau, an informant of unknown reliability** who has access to information concerning the activities and individuals connected with the appointee's law firm advised in the early part of 1953 that he was well acquainted with Duncan Lee when Lee was employed with that law firm. He described him as an extremely nervous and timid individual who he believed lacked the personal courage to have been a Communist or to have engaged in espionage activities. He did say that Lee had been active in the affairs of the Russia War Relief because he had been assigned by the firm to assist in the corporate organization of this group. This assignment reportedly came about because of the interest of General Donovan and others in the law firm in the establishment of Russia War Relief.

This informant said that he and others had "teased" Lee because of this connection with the Russia War Relief; however, they did not attribute his connection with the organization to any particular interest in Communism or Soviet Russia. The fourth report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, California State Legislature, lists the Russian War Relief, Incorporated, as a Communist front organization and states on page 358 as follows: "While it is undoubtedly true that many well-intentioned loyal Americans were tricked into believing that the Russia War Relief was a bona fide American agency, the hard core of Communist influence and direction is evident".

Elizabeth Bentley also testified at the time referred to above that in addition to Duncan Lee, those of her contacts who were employed in the Office of Strategic Services were Maurice Halperin, head of the Latin American Division in the Research and Analysis Branch; J. Julius Joseph, Japanese Division; Helen

Tenny, Spanish Division; and Donald Niven Wheeler. She said Halperin was a Communist from whom she collected dues and he furnished her with various types of information as he had access to that which the Office of Strategic Services was getting on Latin America; had access to world-wide information of various sorts and reported to her that the Office of Strategic Services had an arrangement with the State Department whereby he could see State Department cables on vital issues.

She said her last contact with Halperin occurred in 1944 at which time he was still employed by the Office of Strategic Services. Her Russian contact, "Jack" told her in early 1945 that Halperin had been accused by General Donovan of being a Soviet agent and, following this accusation, Halperin failed to appear two or three times to meet his contact. Background information inserted in the House Committee on Un-American Activities record during Miss Bentley's testimony reflected that Halperin was employed in the Office of Strategic Services from September, 1941, to October, 1945, and in the Department of State from October, 1945, to June, 1946.

With reference to J. Julius Joseph, Miss Bentley testified that she had collected Communist Party dues from him and based upon his employment he was in a position to furnish her information regarding both Japan and Russia. She said Joseph's wife was also employed by the Office of Strategic Services for approximately six months in the Publicity Division, and she too was a Communist. She gave no testimony directly relating Joseph with General Donovan.

Miss Bentley informed the House Committee on Un-American Activities that Helen B. Tenney was a Communist who was first employed in the Spanish Division at the Office of Strategic Services and later handled the Balkans. No testimony directly relating Helen Tenney with the appointee was given by Miss Bentley. Similarly, no testimony directly linking Donald Niven Wheeler with General Donovan was related by Miss Bentley.

Emerson P. Schmidt, Secretary, Committee of Socialism and Communism, United States Chamber of Commerce, testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 26, 1947, at which time he entered into the record a report of the United States Chamber of Commerce entitled "Communists within the Government." In this report appears the following:

"As late as March, 1945, (Major General William J.) Donovan had defended the employment in the OSS of such well-known Communists as Irving Goff, Irving Fajans, Milton Wolff, and Vincent Lossowski. A number of pro-Communists in the OSS were subsequently blanketed into strategic intelligence posts in the State Department. Granting the General's thesis that 'no foreign policy can be stronger than the information upon which it is based,' it can be seen how considerations of war-time expediency have endangered our safety."

The "Washington Post" for July 19, 1945, on page 7, carries an article captioned,"Army Defends 16 Officers Listed As Being Tinged With Communism." The article went on to quote the War Department as saying that the men had proved their loyalty to America. The names were given to a House Military Subcommittee in private testimony which was subsequently released and included the following: "Lieutenant Irving Fajans, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, on the honor roll of the Young Communist League members fighting the Spanish Civil War.

"Lieutenant Irving Goff, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, speaker, Communist School, New York City, and a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain.

"Lieutenant Vincent Lossowski, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

"Lieutenant Milton Wolff, Office of Strategic Services, Washington, National Commander of the Communist-controlled Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

"Major General William J. Donovan, Director of the Office of Strategic Services, also issued a statement in which he praised the 'outstanding service' of four of the officers in organizing resistance groups in enemy-occupied Northern Italy. These officers served with an OSS unit of the 15th Army Group. They were Goff, Wolff, Lossowski, and Frans."

It is to be noted that the Young Communist League and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade have been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

During a hearing by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on "Communist infiltration of Hollywood Motion Picture Industries," on April 10, 1951, Sterling Hayden, a self-admitted

Communist Party member testified he left the Paramount Motion Picture Company on September 5, 1941. Shortly thereafter, he contacted the then Colonel Donovan, Coordinator of Information, and was informed that the United States was training troops and volunteers in guerrilla warfare. As a result of this, Hayden said he went to Scotland where he trained as a paratrooper. He said he got in touch with Donovan inasmuch as sometime previously he had sailed around the world with Donovan's son.

Miscellaneous

The House Committee on Un-American Activities files contain a copy of the September, 1939, issue of the magazine "Equal Justice" volume XIII, number 7, a monthly publication by the International Labor Defense, 112 East 19th Street, New York City. Page four of this issue lists Colonel William J. Donovan of New York as one of the head members of the National Committee of Sponsors. It was noted that numerous other nationally prominent persons were listed as members of that committee. In its 1948 report on page 224, the California Committee on Un-American Activities classifies "Equal Justice" as among the publications which the committee found "to be Communist initiated and controlled or so strongly influenced as to be in the Stalin solar system".

Nathan Witt testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on September 1, 1950, at which time he stated that during the 1932-33 period when he was following the private practice of law, he had been employed in the office of William J. Donovan. David Whittaker Chambers, in testifying before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on August 3, 1948, said he joined the Communist Party in 1924 and for a number of years prior to 1937, served in the Communist Party underground, principally in Washington, D. C. He said the original purpose of the underground was infiltration of the American Government. The head of the underground at this time, according to Chambers, was Nathan Witt, an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. It is to be noted that Witt, in testifying under oath before this committee on August 20, 1948, said he had formerly been employed by the National Labor Relations Board but declined to state whether he knew David Whittaker Chambers.

[redacted]

[redacted]

(S) b-1

Agency Checks

During the course of this investigation, the records of the following Government agencies were checked and either no information or no additional information to that previously set forth in this report was obtained.

G-2, Department of the Army

United States Civil Service Commission

Central Intelligence Agency

House Committee on Un-American Activities

Security Office, Department of State

United States Park Police

Central Files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

The records of the Passport Office, Department of State, reflect numerous passports have been issued to the appointee from 1928 to the present time in connection with official travel as a representative of the various branches of the Government with which he has been employed. No unfavorable information was contained therein.

Credit and Criminal

The records of the Credit Bureaus and law enforcement agencies covering the various places of education, residence, and employment of the appointee were checked and no unfavorable information was obtained.

Relatives

All persons contacted during the course of the investigation who were acquainted with the various members of the immediate

family of the appointee highly recommended them as to their character, loyalty, and reputation. It was determined that his brother, Timothy, who died about twelve years ago, was an outstanding citizen of Buffalo, New York. His other brother, Vincent, is reportedly a Catholic priest, who for many years was assigned to New York City. An only sister of Mr. Donovan's, Loretta, lived for several years in Ohio but later moved to the Far West. Her first husband reportedly died and she has remarried but her present address is not known.

The records of the Credit Bureaus and law enforcement agencies covering the present places of residence of the appointee's son David and his wife Ruth were checked and no unfavorable information concerning them was found.

FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Ladd

DATE: July 15, 1953

FROM : Mr. Rosen

SUBJECT: WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Boger
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

b7d

A request received from the State Department on June 15, 1953, for an investigation of Donovan who is being considered for appointment as Ambassador to Thailand. Investigation highly complimentary to General Donovan with the following exceptions:

Two informants [redacted] and [redacted] refused to recommend him in view of his "soft" treatment of Communists in organizations under his control. [redacted] said the appointee's law firm represents a public relations firm, Allied Syndicate, whose clients include John L. Lewis and Frank Costello, and allegedly represented the Chinese Generals who absconded with millions of nationalist China's funds. He also said that Donovan was alleged to have headed a recent committee to ask the President to oust Senator McCarthy. Elizabeth Bentley, a former Communist, in testifying before the House Committee on Un-American Activities identified five individuals as her contacts for information in the Office of Strategic Services at the time the appointee headed that organization. In a report dated March 26, 1947, the United States Chamber of Commerce pointed out that as late as March, 1946, General Donovan had defended the employment in OSS of such well-known Communists as Irving Goff, Irving Fajans, Milton Wolff and Vincent Lossowski.

The appointee's name appears as a sponsor of the September, 1939, issue of "Equal Justice," a monthly publication of International Labor Defense. This publication has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities as falling within the Stalin Solar System. Whittaker Chambers in testifying before the House Committee on Un-American Activities identified Nathan Witt as head of the Communist Party underground in Washington, D. C., in the 1930's. Witt was formerly employed in the appointee's law firm in 1932-33. [redacted]

b7C

RECOMMENDATION:

That with the exception of identifying Lewis and Costello with Allied Syndicate, the attached summary containing all of the above information be forwarded to the Secretary of State, Mr. Adams and the Attorney General.

RECORDED 80 77-58706-48

MLI:ajs

26 JUL 23 1953

S E C R E T

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elle
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
1 - Liaison Section

August 17, 1955

1 - Mr. Papich

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIRECTOR, FBI

Classified by 8/6 Bofgo
Declassify on: OADR 12-15-84

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

GENERAL WILLIAM DONOVAN
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The following information concerning General William Donovan, former head of the Office of Strategic Services, has been obtained from a confidential source. The reliability of the information is unknown.

b-1

[redacted] (S) S-1 (S)

[redacted] (S) S-1 (S)

1 - Mr. William P. Rogers
Deputy Attorney General

Classified by 38 32
Exempt from GDS, Category 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite
JLS/dhc 5-10-78

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF C/255; Fiche
DATE 8/18/78 LLS/mkg

SJP:fjb
(9)

Cover memo Roach to Belmont
8-15-55 SJP:fjb
[redacted]
b6
b7C
MISC - INFORMATION CONCERNING"

FOI/PA # 2H8025
APPEAL #
CIVIL ACT. #
E.O. # 12356
DATE 8/15/84 INITIALS
S-1 CIA

Tolson
Boardman
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Tele. Room
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77-58706-48
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S E C R E T

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET Control # HQ-80-201

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Classified by 3832
Exempt from GDS, Category 1-2-3
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LES/dbc 5-10-78

CORRELATION SUMMARY

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN

Main File No: 77-58706
also see 94-4-4672
97-2753

Date: 11/15/55

Date Searched: 7/22/54

Subject: William Donovan

Found As: William Donovan
William Joseph Donovan
"Wild Bill" Donovan
William J. Donovan

Also searched as: No other searches made.

This is a summary of information obtained from a review of all "see" references to the subject in Bureau files under the names and aliases listed above. No attempt has been made to exhaust all possibilities as to the names and aliases by which the subject may have been known. All references under the above names containing data identical or possibly identical with the subject have been included except those listed at the end of this summary as not having been reviewed. The term "SI" preceding a serial number shown in the block indicates that the serial so designated contains the same information as the foregoing serial. However it should be realized that the information in these serials may differ somewhat in detail although the facts are basically the same.

This summary is designed to furnish a synopsis of the information set out in each reference. Except where stated otherwise the original serial will contain the information in much more detail.

THIS SUMMARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION NOT SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION.

Analyst	Coordinator	Approved
Gladys G. Bradford	Katherine S. Jackson	D. M. Brown (sand)

GGB:fob

SE RECORDED 77-58706-50

INDEXED 16 NOV 16 1955

62 NOV 29 1955

TOP SECRET

document # 2

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

DONOVAN, William Joseph, lawyer; born at Buffalo, N.Y., Jan 1, 1883; son of Timothy P. and Anna (Lennon) D.; A.B., Columbia, 1905, LL.B., 1907; LL.D., Univ., 1931; married Ruth Rumsey, July 14, 1914; children - David Rumsey, Patricia (dec.). Began practice at Buffalo, 1907; counsel for N.Y. State Fuel Administration, 1924; Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of New York, 1922; U.S. district attorney, Western District of N.Y., 1922-24; member U.S. delegation to customs regulations conference between U.S. and Canada, 1923; assistant attorney general of U.S., 1924-25; the assistant to the attorney general, March 1925-29; U.S. commissioner and chairman Rio Grande River Compact Commission, 1928-29; U.S. commissioner, chairman Colorado River Commission since 1929; member of Donovan, Leisure, Newton, Lumbard & Irvine; counsel for Association Bar City New York and New York and Bronx County bar associations in bankruptcy investigation, 1929; counsel to committee for revision New York state public service commission laws, 1929. Member of Board of Arbitration, under National Mediation Board, controversy between American Train Dispatchers Association, and Boston and Maine Railroad. Republican candidate for governor of N.Y., 1932. Served as captain of Troop 1, 1st Cavalry, N.Y. National Guard; assistant chief of staff, 27th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, World War; major, brigade, adjutant, 51st Brigade; major, 165 Infantry (old 69th N.Y.) advancing to rank of colonel; wounded three times; unofficial observer for Secretary of Navy, Great Britain, July-Aug. 1940, southeastern Europe, Dec. 1940 - March 1941; appointed coordinator of information, July 1941; director of Office of Strategic Services, June 1942; rank of major general, U.S. Army. (Decorated in World War I) Congressional Medal of Honor for conduct in action near Landres and St. Georges, France, Oct. 14-15, 1918; Distinguished Service Cross for conduct in crossing River Ourcq, July 28-31, 1918, Distinguished Service Medal for services in Bacarat sector, July 28-31, and Meuse-Argonne Offensive Oct. 1918 (U.S.), Legion of Honor, Croix di Guerre with palm and silver star (France), Croci di Guerra (Italy); (World War II) Oak leaf cluster on

Distinguished Service Medal for services as director of strategic services (U.S.), Order of Crown (Italy), Knight Commander Order of British Empire (Great Britain), Commander Legion of Honor (France), Grand officer Order of Leopold with palm (Belgium), Papal Lateran medal, Order St. Sylvester (Papal), Commander's Cross with star of Polonia Restituta (Poland), 1st Class of Most Exalted Order of White Elephant, Santi Mala medal (Siam), Commander Cross with star Royal Order of St. Olay (Norway); Alexander Hamilton medal Association Alumni Columbia College Member Association Bar City New York (executive committee 1931), Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Delta Phi. Republican. Catholic. Clubs: Buffalo (Buffalo); University Metropolitan, Chevy Chase (Washington); River, University, Cedar Creek (New York). Home: 1 Sutton Pl. S., New York, N.Y.; also Chapel Hill Farm, Berryville, Va. Office: 2 Wall St., N.Y. City 5.

(Who's Who 1952-1953)

ABBREVIATIONS

Col.	*Colonel*
Dept.	*Department*
Gen.	*General*
Maj. Gen.	*Major General*
OSS	*Office of Strategic Service*

This reference is a Bureau memo dated 10/18/24 to Col. (William J.) Donovan, Assistant Attorney General concerning a letter dated 10/15/24, which had been received by Col. Donovan from George H. Wark, Federal Prohibition Director, Topeka, Kans., and which he (Donovan) had referred to this Bureau. Mr. Wark's letter was a request for information which he could use in an address on the subject of Communists in the U.S. By letter dated 10/31/24, Col. Donovan advised Mr. Wark that the Department had no information available for the purpose he had stated.

Above Letter from George H. Wark dated 10/15/24 and letter to Mr. George H. Wark dated 10/31/24 enclosed with above Bureau memo.
No caption given
61-0-662
(77)

This reference is a memo dated 9/4/29 from O.R. Luthring, Assistant Attorney General enclosing a letter dated 8/30/29 from Honorable William J. Donovan, counsel to several bar associations in NYC and vicinity, requesting a statement of the total number of bankruptcy cases investigated by the Bureau in the fiscal years 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928.

49-0-26
(86,122)

This reference is newspaper clippings from "The World" (city not given) for 3/23/1930 entitled "Bankrupt Abuses Charged, Donovan Urges New Laws" and "Donovan's Recommendations For Reforms in Bankruptcy". In these articles Donovan predicted more scandals if changes in bankruptcy were not made, and set out recommendations for revision of the rules laid down by the Supreme Court for the administration of bankrupt estates.

66-1897-26X
(71)

This reference is an INS name check form for [redacted] Govt. official lawyer, which was received from the State Dept. through liaison channels on 7/18/52.

[redacted]

(S)

105-17446-6
(83)

This reference is a newspaper clipping from the Washington "Post" for 7/5/32 entitled, "Donovan - for - Governor Campaign Is Planned". The article stated that the chairman of the Chenango County Republican Committee had announced organization of a campaign to win the party's gubernatorial nomination for Col. William J. Donovan, World War hero and former Assistant Attorney General in the Coolidge Administration.

66-1897-97
(71)

This reference is a newspaper clipping from the New York "World Telegram" for 8/1/32 entitled, "Donovan Backs Coal 'Combine'." This article stated that Col. William J. Donovan gained the nickname "the Trust Buster" through numerous successful court battles with big business. While assistant to the Attorney General he was cast in another role - that of leader of the defense in the government's anti-trust suit against Appalachian Coals, Inc.

60-1553-37X
(71)

This reference is newspaper clippings from the Washington "Herald" for 8/23/32 entitled, "Col. 'Bill' Donovan Backs Hoover Stand" and the Washington "Star" for 8/23/32 entitled "Donovan Opens Race With Roosevelt Rap." These articles refer to Donovan's speech opening his campaign for the Republican gubernatorial nomination on the previous night.

66-1897-97X41
(72)

[redacted] b7D

Above data should not be disseminated.

WFO memo, 12/12/50
Re: [redacted] b7C
65-9940-191 pg. 4
(15)

193

On 4/21/33 Commander Edward Spofford, former National Commander of the American Legion, invited [redacted] to a dinner at the Hotel Ritz Carlton (city not given) given by the NY Society of Military and Naval Officers of World War I, to hear Col. William J. Donovan speak on "Ethiopia, Italy and the United States." b7D

Col. William Donovan made the above speech following his return from Italy where he met Mussolini, who furnished a plane to Donovan in order that he might view the Ethiopian campaign. [redacted] indicated that Donovan made this trip to Ethiopia and Italy at his own instigation, and that the Italian Embassy in Wash., D.C. made it possible for Donovan to meet Mussolini. b7D

[redacted]urnished information in this reference during interviews by a Bureau Agent on December 17,19 and 22, 1941. b7D

NY Rpt. 1/2/42
Re: [redacted] 7D
was; Esp-I, Alien Enemy Control
65-31000-17
(27)

194

On 10/9/33 Col. William J. Donovan telephoned to inquire whether the Bureau was participating in the "Black Diamond" hearings, and was advised negatively. Donovan stated that in event the Bureau was called in he would like a chance to be heard.

Bureau memo, 10/9/33
No caption given
62-29159-45
(91)

In 1937 a confidential informant reported that Colonel Edwin Emerson organized the "Friends of Germany" and took up offices on the same floor with the German consul at 17 Battery Pl., NYC. One of Emerson's practices was to list the names of "Honary American Members" on the letterhead of his stationary, which letterheads were revised as the "Honorary Members" protested the use of their names. One of the names used by Emerson in this fashion was Col. William Donovan.

Letter to Richmond, 8/21/40
enclosing memo 8/31/40
Re: Colonel Edwin Emerson
61-5062-5
(28)

This reference also sets out information regarding Col. Emerson and stated that among the persons who repudiated the use of his name by the "Friends of Germany" organization was Col. William J. Donovan, erstwhile head of the Dept. of Justice of the U.S.

Memo for Mr. Tamm, 12/17/37
Enclosing memo from [redacted]
No caption given
61-7566-756 b7D
(75)
SI 61-7566-1666
(64)
SI 100-335075-23
(76) (Source not given)

This reference refers to a N.Y. report dated 1/19/38 in the Lindbergh case which included a detailed memo prepared by Mr. Robert Thayer, an attorney associated with Col. William J. Donovan, NYC, concerning the participation of Morris Rosner in the Lindbergh case.

Bureau Memo, 3/15/38
Re: Morris Rosner, wa
7-1-7833
(76)

On 2/27/39 a Bureau Agent reviewed files of District #11 of the National Fertilizer Association (NFA) in possession o[redacted] of NFA. During this review a letter was observed from NFA regarding the decision in the sugar case of 3/30/36 and an address of Col. William J. Donovan with regard to the effect of that decision on trade association activities. b7D

Seattle Rpt., 3/4/39
Re: Fertilizer Industry;
Anti-Trust
60-2078-340
(76)
SI 60-2078-331
(75)

The NY office made available a printed copy of an address by Col. William J. Donovan before the Trade Association Executives in NYC at the Pennsylvania Hotel on 4/7/36, which was obtained by a Bureau Agent from [redacted] Trade Association Executives. b7D

NY Let., 4/10/36 enclosing copy of above address
Re: Sugar Institute;
Antitrust
60-1354-448
(82)

On 7/14/36 [redacted] was interviewed at his office, [redacted] St. Paul, Minn., where he was associated with the Assistant States Attorney. On 7/10/36 Grady L. Boatwright* called [redacted] at his office. Boatwright referred to the activities of Senator MacKellar who was going to get Mr. Hoover fired (referring to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of FBI). Boatwright went on to say that "Wild Bill" Donovan, "Cotton Ed" Smith and Joe Robinson were going to have Mr. Hoover fired. b7C

St. Paul Let., 7/17/36
No caption given
62-43010-1-457
(59)
SI 62-43010-1-217
(59)
SI 62-43010-1-218
(60)

With regard to the above incident, disciplinary action against Boatwright resulted in his transfer to Salt Lake City.

62-43010-1-217X
(64)

* Member of Secret Service in St. Paul.

The August 1936 issue of "Daring Detective", carried an article entitled, "Smashing the Notorious Karpis Mob" by Jack Heil. On page 27 of the above issue Heil stated that he had personal knowledge of the FBI and its methods. Heil stated: "I have watched it work in many cases. As a newspaper man, I have sat across the table from J. Edgar Hoover in the office of 'Wild Bill' Donovan, when he was first Assistant Attorney General and discussed details of Ohio's famous Hayner whiskey conspiracy whose meandering led almost to the White House doors.

Memo for the Director,
11/13/36
Re: George Jack Heil
61-7559-514X
(64)

In the latter part of 1937 the Buffalo Office advised that [redacted] of the Buffalo PD had received the highest rating of any of the officers taking the examination for the position of captaincy in the Buffalo PD. [redacted] was interested in being appointed as captain in the Buffalo PD and was highly pleased to learn that the Director was willing intercede with Lord O'Brien and William Donovan on his behalf. [redacted] said he knew Donovan and O'Brien slightly, but very well by reputation. From [redacted] comments he did not wish anything said to Mr. Donovan at that time.

b7D

Buffalo Let., 12/2/37
No caption given
62-21866-50
(54)

The Milwaukee "Sentinal" for 11/1/37 carried an article entitled "90 More Days for Oil Trial". This article said that the oil trial which started the first of October would continue for three months longer according to William (Wild Bill(Donovan, chief defense counsel, who said it would take his side twice as long as it took the Gov't. to present the prosecution.

Milwaukee Let., 11/6/37
enclosing above news-
paper clipping
Re: Major Oil Companies;
Antitrust
60-1926-636
(75)

On 1/22/40 Col. William J. Donovan called from NYC and stated he wanted to talk to Mr. Hoover about one of the "Christian Front" boys. Donovan said that during World War I he had a man in his regiment named John Prout who was an excellent soldier. This man's son was one of the members of the Christian Front boys who had been apprehended.

During the above conversation it was decided that Donovan would confer with Inspector Connelley in NYC instead of coming to Washington. NY was advised of this decision.

Memo from Mr. Hoover to
Mr. Tamm, 1/22/40
Re: Christian Front
65-4279-170
(76)

This reference is a report from [redacted] dated 4/22/40 which stated that at a meeting, on 4/12/40, place not stated, between the vets, Vincent Sheehan and Colonel "Wild Bill" Donovan it was suggested that a famous named attorney be hired to represent the vets of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (VALB) at the trial of Milton Wolff, commander of VALB. This was done by hiring an attorney by the name of Howley, from "Wild Bill" Donovan's office.

61-8381-35
(64)
SI 61-8381-618X page 23, 27
(62) [redacted]

b7D

This reference is a report from [redacted] dated 4/12/40 which stated that the above described meeting was held in the office of the New Yorker Beverage Company. This reference also states that Col. "Wild Bill" Donovan was present at this meeting.

The following inked notation appeared on this reference concerning Donovan: "Had charge of 69th Division during War, Still has command."

61-8381-27
(65)

201

This reference is a letter from William J. Donovan, attorney at 2 Wall St., NYC, dated 4/16/40 introducing [redacted] This letter stated that [redacted] was a man of high and honorable character and any statement he made could be relied upon.

b7C

On 4/23/40 Mr. Hoover wrote a letter to Col. Donovan stating that arrangements had been made for Mr. Foxworth, SAC in NYC, to get in touch with [redacted] in connection with any information which [redacted] felt might be of value to the FBI.

65-16212-X
(21)

A note dated 4/18/40 written on paper from the Director's office telephone room stated that [redacted] called in person and presented a letter from William J. Donovan of NYC. [redacted] was anxious to see Mr. Hoover and said he would stay in Washington until Mr. Hoover returned. Data regarding the above letter from Donovan is set forth above.

By letter 4/23/40 SAC Forworth was advised that the Director had seen [redacted] who had offered to be of service to the Bureau by furnishing information of German activities obtained through his business and social contacts in New York. Forworth was instructed to establish contact with [redacted]

b7D

62-52717-2
changed to
65-16212-X
(76, 21)

ine

102

On 8/19/41 Captain James Roosevelt called at this Bureau and advised that he had been designated as liaison man for Col. William Donovan's organization. Roosevelt wanted information about the Bureau's coverage. Roosevelt was assured that this Bureau would do anything and everything possible to assist and cooperate with Col. Donovan and his organization in carrying on the duties assigned to them by the President.

Bureau memo, 8/20/41
No caption given
62-62405-112
(24)
SI 62-64427-X5
(20)

On 8/20/41 representatives of INS and ONI received instructions to vote for the approval of the visa application of [redacted] on the basis of a statement by Col. (William) Donovan that [redacted] was needed in the defense program of his country.

Bureau Memo, 8/20/41
Re: [redacted] bc
Visa Applicant
100-17826-1285
(47)

202

On 8/29/41 Col. William Donovan called and talked with Mr. Tamm. Col. Donovan said he had talked with representatives of the War and Navy Departments. (The subject of this conversation was not clear but it was believed to concern the setting up of a new intelligence agency.) Col. Donovan said he wanted to cooperate with Mr. Hoover.

Memo for the Director,
8/29/41
No caption given
62-64427-X6
(20)

On 9/9/41 information was received that Mr. J.C. Wiley, formerly of the Treasury Department, was attached to the office of Col. William J. Donovan, coordinator of information.

Memo to Mr. Foxworth,
9/9/41
No caption given
62-10033-366X
(91)

204