



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN

PART 1 OF 2

FILE #: 77-58706

PREPROCESSED MATERIAL

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN

PART I OF II PARTS

6-15-53

URGENT

SACs BUFFALO
NEW YORK
INDIANAPOLIS
ALBANY
BALTIMORE
ST. LOUIS
RICHMOND
WFO (BCH)

71
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SPECIAL INQUIRY. BACKGROUND DATA
CONTAINED IN WHO'S WHO FOR FIFTY TWO DASH FIFTY THREE. GENERAL
DONOVAN IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CHIEF OF MIS. ICH.
CONDUCT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AS TO THE CHARACTER, LOYALTY,
REPUTATION, AND OCCASION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DONOVAN. THIS CASE
SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO A MATURE, EXPERIENCED AND WELL QUALIFIED
AGENT AND AFFORDED CONTINUOUS ATTN. TO INSURE THAT THE DEADLINE
IS MET. SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS BY TELETYPE; ASCERTAIN CREDIT
AND CRIMINAL OR CCH CONCERNING LACK. WORK WITH INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION, SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION, BY JUNE TWENTY TWO WITHOUT
FAIL.

992
CC: 2 - WFO (BCH)

K
SE-32

HOOVER.

MLJ:dwl

RECORDED-141

77-58706-1

Request recd. 6-15, by ltr dated 6-12-53, from Secretary of
State Dulles.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 22 1953

JUN 15 1953

TELETYPE

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 18 1953

TELETYPE

NEW YORK 9 BALTIMORE 1 FROM WASH DC 15 6-1XXX 6-29 PM

SAC URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SPECIAL INQUIRY. BACKGROUND DATA CONTAINED IN WHO-S WHO FOR FIFTY TWO DASH FIFTY THREE. GENERAL DONOVAN IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CHIEF OF MISSION. CONDUCT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AS TO THE CHARACTER, LOYALTY, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DONOVAN. THIS CASE SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO A MATURE, EXPERIENCED AND WELL QUALIFIED AGENT AND AFFORDED CONTINUOUS ATTN. TO INSURE THAT THE DEADLINE IS MET. SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS BY TELETYPE, ASCERTAIN CURRENT ADDRESS OF ALL IMMEDIATE RELATIVES AND CONDUCT APPROPRIATE CREDIT AND CRIMINAL CHECKS CONCERNING EACH. SUREP ATTN. INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION, BY JUNE TWENTY TWO WITHOUT FAIL.

HOOVER

WFO BU IP AL SL RH ADVISED

NY WA R 9 NY TM

BA WA R 1 BA LAP

TU DLSC

*Mrs. Olson - 6/19/53
Ident. Mem*

5

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 15 1953

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC 6-15-53 6-24 PM JG

SAC BUFFALO ALBANY RICHMOND URGENT

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HOOVER

WFO NY IP BA SL ADVISED

BU OK FBI BU/REA

AL OK FBI AL/HLM

RH OK FBI RH/VLC

TU DISC

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 15 1953

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC 6-15-53 5-55 PM MLT

SAC INDIANAPOLIS, ST LOUIS URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SPECIAL INQUIRY. BACKGROUND DATA CONTAINED IN WHO-S WHO FOR FIFTY TWO DASH FIFTY THREE. GENERAL DONOVAN IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CHIEF OF MISSION. CONDUCT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AS TO THE CHARACTER, LOYALTY, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DONOVAN. THIS CASE SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO A MATURE, EXPERIENCED AND WELL QUALIFIED AGENT AND AFFORDED CONTINUOUS ATTN. TO INSURE THAT THE DEADLINE IS MET. SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS BY TELETYPE, ASCERTAIN CURRENT ADDRESS OF ALL IMMEDIATE RELATIVES AND CONDUCT APPROPRIATE CREDIT AND CRIMINAL CHECKS CONCERNING EACH. SHREP ATTN. INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION, BY JUNE TWENTY TWO WITHOUT FAIL.

HOOVER

WFO BU NY AL EA RH ADVISED

END ACK FOR 2 IN ORDER

IP OK FBI IP NJW

SL OK FBI SL MMK

DISC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

FILE NO. **65-1717**

REPORT MADE AT CINCINNATI, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 5/29/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/23/50	REPORT MADE BY WADE H. ALLEY FSG
TITLE <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> b7C W. G.S., et al			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, former head OSS, interviewed, and states OSS raid on AMERASIA offices conducted after OSS clerk found identical report in AMERASIA magazine on Siam published. Ten to twelve exhibits seized in OSS raid. DONOVAN personally informed Secretary of State STETTINIUS of raid and finding of State Department papers. DONOVAN believes STETTINIUS telephoned President ROOSEVELT regarding the matter. DONOVAN later informed by FRED LYON of State Department that was suspected. **b7C**

- RUC -

DETAILS:

AT DAYTON, OHIO

General WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, former head of O.S.S., was interviewed on May 23, 1950, at the offices of the GEORGE H. STAD CORPORATION, Room 350, Talbott Building, First and Ludlow Streets, Dayton, Ohio.

General DONOVAN related that in connection with the AMERASIA case it was his impression that he had just returned from abroad on the day following the raid by Agents of O.S.S. at the New York Office of AMERASIA. However, DONOVAN stated he did not come into his office until the evening of the day he returned from abroad. According to this statement, DONOVAN's return would have been on March 12, 1945; however, he was unable to recall the exact date in March of 1945.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (5) - Bureau (A:SD) 2 - New York (65-11461) 2 - Cincinnati		<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">77-58206-✓</div> <div style="font-weight: bold;">NOT RECORDED</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">OCT 11 1954</div>

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-1717-111

DONOVAN stated upon his return to the office he was informed of the AMERASIA raid of the previous evening by Mr. VAN BEUREN, who was at that time Security Officer for O.S.S. DONOVAN stated he was informed at that time that the raid had been conducted by FRANK BIELASKI and other O.S.S. Agents and as he recalls it was not until 1:00 A.M. that the O.S.S. Agents were able to get into the offices of AMERASIA.

Continuing, General DONOVAN related that the Agents seized about ten or twelve exhibits from two suitcases as evidence; however, he stated he has no recollection as to the contents of the exhibits. After being informed by VAN BEUREN of the details of the raid and of the fact that official State Department papers were found in the AMERASIA offices as well as O.S.S. papers, DONOVAN then telephoned Secretary of State EDWARD R. STETTINIUS at his apartment at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D. C. General DONOVAN recalls that it was quite late when he made the telephone call and it was necessary to awaken Mr. STETTINIUS, and he informed him that he was on his way over to see him on the matter and suggested that Assistant Secretary of State JULIUS HOLMES be there to hear the facts in the case.

Following this call, DONOVAN, together with VAN BEUREN and J. J. MONIGAN, then legal counsel for O.S.S., proceeded to the Wardman Park Hotel to see Mr. STETTINIUS.

Upon arrival there, Assistant Secretary of State HOLMES was there and DONOVAN proceeded to inform Mr. STETTINIUS of the case. DONOVAN recalls that he stated to Mr. STETTINIUS, "This is your responsibility - we were after our own papers in this office and found some of yours." DONOVAN stated that the case was generally discussed and he was later informed by Mr. MONIGAN that while he, DONOVAN, was talking with Mr. HOLMES, Secretary STETTINIUS left the room for a period of time, presumably for the purpose of telephoning President ROOSEVELT. DONOVAN stated that he has no personal knowledge that this call was made, but he believes that Mr. STETTINIUS did call the President.

General DONOVAN stated that he was informed that O.S.S. first became aware of the case when a "scholarly clerk" in O.S.S., while reviewing an issue of the AMERASIA magazine observed an article therein on Siam which was identical to a report which he had previously prepared on the subject.

DONOVAN stated that in April or 1945, while talking to FRED LYON, Security Officer of the Department of State, he stated "someone in your Department must be responsible for these papers being taken out and you must have some suspects - whom do you suspect?" At this point, DONOVAN could not recall the exact statement of LYON, but he did state that [REDACTED] was suspected. DONOVAN stated that he later told PATRICK HENNESSY what LYON had said concerning [REDACTED] b7C

CI 65-1717

HURLEY was told of this at the London, England, Airport, by DONOVAN.

Concerning first-hand knowledge of the subjects in this case, DONOVAN stated that he first met JOHN STEWART SERVICE in 1943-1944 in China while on official business and saw him thereafter on several occasions. While in China, PATRICK HURLEY informed him that SERVICE was attempting to sabotage his, HURLEY's, efforts in China and that he had documents to show what SERVICE was doing.

The only other subject of whom DONOVAN had knowledge was LARSON, who, he recalls, was in the U. S. Navy and attempted to secure a job with O.S.S.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

General DONOVAN was interviewed in Dayton, Ohio, on May 23, 1950,
upon the telephonic request of the New York Office.

CI 65-1717

NEW YORK OFFICE

Copies of this report are being designated for the
New York City Office in accordance with their request.

WASH AND WASH FLD 19
DIRECTOR AND SAC

FROM NEW YORK
URGENT

17

10-22 PM

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN. GENERAL DONOVAN IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CHIEF OF MISSION. CONDUCT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AS TO CHARACTER, LOYALTY, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DONOVAN. BUREAU DESIRES THIS CASE BE ASSIGNED A MATURE, EXPERIENCED AND WELL QUALIFIED AGENT AND AFFORD CONTINUOUS ATTENTION TO INSURE THAT THE DEADLINE OF JUNE TWENTYSECOND IS MET. SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS BY TELETYPE. ASCERTAIN CURRENT ADDRESS OF ALL IMMEDIATE RELATIVES AND CONDUCT APPROPRIATE CREDIT AND CRIMINAL CHECKS CONCERNING EACH. SUREP INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION SI SECTION.

ALBANY DIVISION

DONOVAN ADMITTED TO BAR PROBABLY NINETEEN SEVEN. COUNSEL FOR NY STATE FUEL ADMINISTRATION NINETEEN TWENTYFOUR. REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR LT. GOV. NY NINETEEN TWENTYTWO AND CANDIDATE FOR GOV. NINETEEN THIRTYTWO. COUNSEL TO COMMISSION FOR REVISION NY STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LAWS NINETEEN TWENTYNINE. SERVED NY STATE NATIONAL GUARD AS CAPTAIN.

BUFFALO DIVISION

DONOVAN BORN JAN. FIRST, EIGHTEEN EIGHTYTHREE IN BUFFALO, PARENTS TIMOTHY P. AND ANNA LENNON DONOVAN. BEGAN LEGAL PRACTICE AT BUFFALO NINETEEN SEVEN. SERVED AS US DA WESTERN DISTRICT NY NINETEEN TWENTY TWO TO TWENTYFOUR.

RECORDED-92

77-58706-2

20 JUL 22 1954

THE COPIES

13

WA 19

PAGE TWO

RICHMOND DIVISION

DONOVAN MAINTAINS HOME AT CHAPEL HILL FARM, BERRYVILLE, VA.

WFO

DONOVAN MEMBER US DELEGATION TO CUSTOMS REGULATION CONFERENCE BETWEEN US AND CANADA NINETEEN TWENTYTHREE. ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL US NINETEEN TWENTYFOUR TO TWENTYFIVE. ASST. TO AG TWENTYFIVE TO TWENTYNINE. US COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN RIO GRANDE RIVER COMPACT COMMISSION TWENTYEIGHT TO TWENTYNINE. US COMMISSIONER, CHAIRMAN, COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION SINCE TWENTYNINE. MEMBER BOARD OF ARBITRATION UNDER NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD CONTROVERSY BETWEEN AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHERS ASSOCIATION AND B & M RR, COORDINATOR OF INFO FORTYONE. DIRECTOR OF OSS DURING WW TWO AS MAJOR GENERAL, US ARMY. UNOFFICIAL OBSERVER FOR SECRETARY OF NAVY IN GREAT BRITIAN AND SE EUROPE FORTY TO FORTYONE. HANDLE.

BOARDMAN

ALBANY RICHMOND AND BUFFALO ADVISED

HFC

11
44

FBI ALBANY

6-18-53

HLM

SACS BUFFALO AND NEW YORK

U R G E N T

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN - SI. BUDED JUNE TWENTYTWO NEXT- REBUTEL
JUNE FIFTEEN LAST AND NEW YORK TEL JUNE SEVENTEEN. RECORDS NYS
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REFLECT GEN. DONOVAN SERVED AS COUNSEL
TO COMMITTEE ENGAGED IN REVISION THIS COMMISSION'S LAWS NINETEEN
TWENTYNINE. COMMITTEES REPORT REFLECTS ASSOCIATES OF DONOVAN AS
FOLLOWS: JOHN KNIGHT - CHAIRMAN - PRESENTLY, FEDERAL JUDGE AT
BUFFALO; WILLIAM J. HICKEY, RETURNED NYS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE,
BUFFALO, N.Y. DR. JAMES C. WRIGHT, ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AT
SUNY UNIVERSITY. CONDUCT NECESSARY INTERVIEWS.

KELLY

END

JPH:hlm

77-3597

cc: Director, FBI

77-58706
NR

26 JUL 22 1953

15

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E.A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 12 18 9-17P

DIRECTORU R G E N T.....

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REURFILE. DONOVAN-S SON, DAVID MAINTAINS
RESIDENCE AT CHAPEL HILL FARM, BERRYVILLE, VIRGINIA. HANDLE.

BOARDMAN

RICHMOND ADVISED

RECORDED-92 77-58706-3

END

NY R 12 WA JG

UJ

Conley

26 JUL 22 1951

1/0



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1953

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The President is considering for appointment as a chief of mission General William J. Donovan. The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate has requested that such nominations be submitted with my assurance that a full field investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been concluded.

It is requested, therefore, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation conduct a full field investigation of General Donovan and transmit the findings to me through the Office of Security of this Department.

Biographic information on General Donovan is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

John Foster Dulles
John Foster Dulles

Enclosure

The Honorable
J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

RECORDED - 67
INDEXED - 54

77-58706-4

William Joseph Donovan

(p. 662, WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, 1952-53)

lawyer; b. at Buffalo, N.Y., Jan. 1, 1883; s. Timothy P. and Anna (Lennon) D.; A.B., Columbia, 1905, LL.B., 1907; LL.D., Niagara U., 1919, U. of Notre Dame, 1929, Syracuse Univ., 1931.

m. 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 lieut. gov. of New York, 1922; U.S. dist. atty., Western District of N.Y., 1922-24; mem. U.S. delegation to customs regulations conf. between U.S. and Can., 1923; asst. atty. gen. of U.S., 1924-25; the asst. to the atty. gen., Mar. 1925-29; U.S. commr. and chmn. Rio Grande River Compact Commn., 1928-29; U.S. commr., chmn. Colo. River Commn. since 1929; mem. Donovan, Leisure, Newton, Lombard & Irvine; counsel for Assn. Bar City New York and New York and Bronx County bar assns. in bankruptcy investigation, 1929; counsel to com. for revision New York state pub. service commn. laws, 1929. Mem. Bd. Arbitration, under Nat. Mediation Bd., controversy between Am. Train Dispatchers Assn., and B. & M. RR. Rep. candidate for Governor of N.Y., 1932. Served as capt. Troop I, 1st Cav., N.Y. Nat. Guard; Asst Chief of Staff, 27th Div., A.E.F., World War; maj., brigade, adj., 51st Brigade; maj., 165 Inf. (old 69th N.Y.) advancing to rank of col., wounded three times; unofficial observer for sec. of navy, Great Britain, July-Aug. 1940, southeastern Europe, Dec. 1940-Mar. 1941; apptd. coordinator of Information, July 1941; dir., Office of Strategic Services, June 1942; rank of maj. gen., U.S. Army.

Decorated (World War I) Congressional Medal of Honor for conduct in action near Landres and St. Georges, France, Oct. 14-15, 1918; D.S.C. for conduct in crossing River Ourcq, July 28-31, 1918, D.S.M. for services in Bacarat sector, July 28-31, and Meuse-Argonne Offensive, Oct. 1918 (U.S.), Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre with palm and silver star (France), Croci di Guerra (Italy); (World War II) Oak leaf cluster on D.S.M. for services as dir. of strategic services (U.S.), Order of Crown (Italy), Knight Comdr. Order of British Empire (Great Britain), Comdr. Legion of Honor (France), Grand officer Order of Leopold with plam (Belgium), Papal Lateran medal, Order St. Sylvester (Papal), Comdr.'s Cross with star of Polonia Restituta (Poland), 1st Class of Most Exalted Order of White Elephant, Santi Mala medal (Siam), Comdr. Cross with star Royal Order of St. Olav (Norway); Alexander Hamilton medal Assn., Alumni Columbia Coll. Mem. Assn. Bar City New York (exec. com. 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 Street, New York City, 5.

18

77-58706-4

June 18, 1953

RECORDED-92

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY MESSENGER

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

My dear Mr. Secretary:

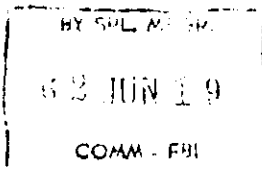
I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 12, 1953, in which you requested investigation of General William J. Donovan, whom the President is considering for appointment as a chief of mission.

Please be advised that this investigation has been ordered and upon completion a summary of the results will be forwarded to you in accordance with your request.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



WMM:amb

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Laughlin _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

26 JUL 30 1953

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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 Street, New York City, 5.

23

6-18-53

URGENT

SAC NEW YORK

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN, FIFTY THREE.
REFER TO FOLLOWING REFERENCES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INVESTIGATION:
URFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH TWO FIVE NINE ZERO FOUR, JAY LOUISIANA,
URLET DATED APRIL SEVEN FIFTY THREE; URFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH NINE
SIX SIX THREE ZERO, DUNCAN LEE, REPORT OF SA GALLAGHER DATED
JANUARY TWENTY, FIFTY THREE, PAGE THREE; URFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH
ONE ZERO NINE SEVEN SEVEN FOUR, WILLIAM EDWIN PRICE, SM DASH C,
REPORT OF SA JOHN L. FAGAN DATED FEBRUARY SEVENTEEN FIFTY THREE,
PAGE EIGHT.

HOOVER

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MLI:dlj

JUN 18 1953
TELETYPE

Verne

77-58706-5

RECORDED-92

6 JUL 22 1953

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 18 1953

TELETYPE

NEW YORK 15 FROM WASH DC 18 6-36 PM MLT

SAC URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN, FIFTY THREE. REFER
TO FOLLOWING REFERENCES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INVESTIGATION, URFILE
ONE HUNDRED DASH TWO FIVE NINE ZERO FOUR, JAY LOVESTONE, URLET DATED
APRIL SEVEN FIFTY THREE, URFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH NINE SIX SIX THREE
ZERO, DUNCAN LEE, REPORT OF SA GALLAGHER DATED JANUARY TWENTY, FIFTY
THREE, PAGE THREE, URFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH ONE ZERO NINE SEVEN SEVEN
FOUR, WILLIAM ADDISON PRICE, SM DASH C, REPORT OF SA JOHN L. FACAN
DATED FEBRUARY SEVENTEEN FIFTY THREE, PAGE EIGHT.

HOOVER

END

WA R 15 NY TM

DISC

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 18 1956

TELETYPE

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

WASH AND WASH FLD 14 FROM NEW YORK 18 10-40 PM
DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN, LAST TO WFO. A REVIEW OF THE INDICES OF THE NYO WITH REFERENCE TO APPOINTEE, REFLECTS THE FOLLOWING-~~IN~~ FORTYFIVE, ELIZABETH BENTLEY ADMITTED THAT SHE OPERATED AS A COURIER IN A SOVIET ESPIONAGE NETWORK BETWEEN FORTYONE TO FORTYFIVE. BENTLEY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE HCUA THAT DUNCAN C. LEE, A LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE APPOINTEE, WAS HER FIRST CONTACT IN THE OSS, OF WHICH DONOVAN WAS THE DIRECTOR. LEE WAS FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY DONOVAN-S LAW FIRM, DONOVAN, LEISURE, LUMBARD, NEWTON, AND IRVINE. ANOTHER CONTACT OF BENTLEY IN OSS WAS MAURICE HALPERIN, WITH REGARD TO DUNCAN C. LEE, YOUR ATTENTION IS INVITED TO THE REPORT OF SA FLOYD L. JONES, DATED JAN. TWENTYEIGHT, FORTYSIX, AT WASHINGTON, PAGE SIXTYEIGHT, IN THE GREGORY MATTER, YOUR FILE ONE HUNDRED DASH ONE SEVEN FOUR NINE THREE. WFO IS ORIGIN IN THE LEE CASE. IN REGARD TO HALPERIN, SEE REPORT OF SA EDWARD W. DOOLEY DATED FEB. ELEVEN, FORTYSIX AT NYC, PAGE FORTYFOUR, IN GREGORY CASE, AND WFO LET TO DIRECTOR UNDER SAME CAPTION DATED DEC. ELEVEN, FORTYFIVE, ON PAGE TWO, WHERE HALPERIN-S NAME IS MENTIONED, ALONG WITH THE NAME OF APPOINTEE.

26 JUL 22 1956
END OF PAGE ONE

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WA 14

PAGE TWO

ALSO SEE REPORT OF SA JONES DATED JAN. ELEVEN, FORTYSIX, AT WASH
IN THE GREGORY MATTER, PAGE ONE THREE FIVE, CONCERNING DONALD NIVEN
WHEELER, AN OSS EMPLOYEE, INVESTIGATED UNDER THE HATCH ACT. THE
APPOINTEE ADVISED THE BUREAU HE WOULD TAKE NO ACTION IN THIS MATTER.
WFO AS ORIGIN IN THE GREGORY CASE, IN REQUESTED TO FURNISH A SUITABLE
DOCUMENTATION OF BENTLEY-S ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING HER CONTACTS AT
OSS. FURNISH APPROPRIATE SKETCHES OF DUNCAN LEE, MAURICE HALPERIN,
AND DONALD NIVEN WHEELER FROM BENTLEY-S TESTIMONY RE OSS, IF POSSIBLE,
AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE APPOINTEE AT THAT TIME. BOSTON,
HOWEVER, IS ORIGIN IN THE HALPERIN CASE. NH DIVISION. REFERENCE IS
MADE TO YOUR FILE SIXTYFIVE DASH ONE TWO EIGHT EIGHT, ENTITLED
[REDACTED] WAS, ESP - R." AS ORIGIN, YOUR OFFICE
WILL REVIEW FILE AND REPORT ANY PERTINENT INFO CONCERNING THE MANSFIELDS
AND THE APPOINTEE AND HIS LAW FIRM. FOR THE INFO OF THE NH OFFICE,
GENERAL DONOVAN IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CHIEF OF
MISSION. THE BUREAU DESIRES THIS CASE BE ASSIGNED TO A MATURE,
EXPERIENCED, WELL QUALIFIED AGENT, AND AFFORDED CONTINUOUS ATTENTION
TO INSURE THAT THE DEADLINE IS MET. SET NECESSARY LEADS BY TELETYPE.
SUREP ATTN- INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SI SECTION, BY JUNE TWENTYTWO,
NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

BOARDMAN

NEW HAVEN ADVISED HLD

TWO COPIES WFO

11
44

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 19 1953

TELETYPE

FBI, ST. LOUIS 6-19-53 225 PM WJE

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN, LAST. ARMY RECORD
NOT LOCATED SL. WFO HANDLE.

THORNTON

END AND ACK

3-25 PM OK FBI WA SW

VT

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TWO COPIES WFO

77-58706-7

26 JUL 23 1953

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

FILE NO.

PKK

REPORT MADE AT ALBANY, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 6-19-53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-16,17,18, 19-53	REPORT MADE BY JAMES P. HENDRICK, JR.
TITLE WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

DONOVAN Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor, New York State, 1922; Republican candidate for Governor, New York State, 1932. Served as counsel to Commission for Revision of New York State Public Service Commission Laws, 1929. New York State Department of Audit and Control records reflect DONOVAN Chief Counsel to New York State Fuel Commission, 1922. Records, New York State Board of Law Examiners, reflect WILLIAM J. DONOVAN applied to take New York State bar examination, March, 1907. Graduate of Columbia University, 1905. Attended Columbia Law School two years. Took bar examination October 22, 1907, passed and certified to Fourth Judicial Department, Rochester, New York, November, 1907. Records, New York State Court of Appeals, reflect WILLIAM J. DONOVAN admitted New York State Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department, Rochester, New York, November, 1907. Filed oath to practice as attorney in New York State December, 1907. Membership in New York State National Guard and New York State Bar Association verified. Record clear. DONOVAN was granted honorary LL.D. degree by Syracuse University in 1930. Dr. FINLA G. CRAWFORD, Syracuse University, highly recommends applicant as to character, loyalty and associates.

- RUC -

REFERENCES: Bureau teletype dated 6-15-53.
New York City teletype dated 6-17-53.
Albany teletype dated 6-18-53.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>JJK/egv</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 Bureau (AMSD) 1 Albany (77-3597) 26 JUL 22 1953		77-58706-8
		26 JUL 22 1953

AL 77-3597

DETAILS:

AT ALBANY, NEW YORK

Mrs. G. RYAN, Principal File Clerk, New York State Public Service Commission, advised that there would be no record in their Personnel Department of General DONOVAN having served as Counsel to the Commission to Revise the New York State Public Service Commission Laws. She suggested that Mr. BLEECKER H. BAKER of their Legal Division might be of help in this matter.

Mr. BLEECKER H. BAKER, Legal Division, New York State Public Service Commission, made available the report of this Commission's work in 1929. The report reflected that WILLIAM J. DONOVAN had served as Counsel to the Legislative Commission to Revise the Laws of New York State Public Service Commission. This report further reflected that associated with DONOVAN on this Commission were Dr. JAMES C. BONBRIGHT, Economics Professor at New York University, Senator JOHN KNIGHT of Buffalo, New York, and WILLIAM J. HICKEY, also of Buffalo, New York. Listed on the Research Staff of this Commission was FINLA H. CRAWFORD, presently Vice-Chancellor of Syracuse University.

Mr. EARL FRANCIS, Director, Election Board, New York State Department of State, advised that his records reflected that WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor of New York State in the election of 1922, but was defeated by GEORGE LUNN. The records further reflected that WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was the Republican candidate for Governor in 1932 and was defeated by HERBERT H. LEHMAN. Mr. FRANCIS advised that he did not know General DONOVAN personally, but knew of his tremendously fine reputation. He further stated that he did not recall that General DONOVAN ever resided in Albany. Mr. FRANCIS suggested that the writer contact Mr. WILLIAM KING, Secretary of the New York State Senate, for information concerning General DONOVAN.

✓ Mr. WILLIAM KING, Secretary of the New York State Senate, advised that he had met General DONOVAN on only one occasion in Buffalo and could not say that he knew him personally. He advised, however, that his reputation speaks well for him and that he knew that General DONOVAN had made a great name for himself both in New York State and in the service of his country.

AL 77-3597

Mr. WILLIAM E. DOUGHERTY, Executive Deputy Comptroller, New York State Department of Audit and Control, advised that his records showed WILLIAM J. DONOVAN as Chief Counsel for the New York State Fuel Administration. The records further indicated that this capacity was served from September 7, 1922 to December 31, 1922. The records indicated that Mr. DONOVAN received a flat fee of \$5000.00.

AT SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The following investigation was conducted by SA PETER G. ROTH.

Records of the Registrar of Syracuse University reflect that applicant was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1930.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Employee
RAYMOND F. MOHR:

AT ALBANY, NEW YORK

Miss BETTY CONNORS, Clerk, New York State Board of Law
Examiners, advised that her records reflected WILLIAM J. DONOVAN,
New York City and Buffalo, New York, applied to take the New York
State Bar Examination on March 23, 1907. Education background at
that time consisted of graduate from Columbia University 1905 and
two years attendance at Columbia Law School. No other information
was available. He took the New York State Bar Examination October
22, 1907, passed and was certified to the Fourth Judicial Depart-
ment, Rochester, New York, November 7, 1907.

Mr. FLOYD MELIUS, Clerk, New York State Court of Appeals, ad-
vised that his records reflected WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was admitted
to the Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department, Rochester, New
York, during the November Term 1907 and that he filed oath to
practice as an attorney in New York State on December 24, 1907.

Colonel EDWIN C. GORE, New York State Adjutant General's Office,
advised that his records reflected WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was born
January 1, 1883; that he enlisted in the New York State National
Guard as Private, Troop I, First Cavalry, on May 7, 1912; and that
on October 11, 1912 he was made a Captain in the same unit. The
records further indicated that WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was a Captain,
Troop I, First Cavalry, Mexican Border, June 30, 1916 through March
30, 1917. On May 15, 1917, while holding the rank of Captain, he
was likewise appointed Assistant Chief of Staff of the New York
Division. On July 7, 1917, he was made Major in the Adjutant
General's Department, First Brigade. DONOVAN was transferred to the
69th Infantry Branch of the First Brigade (The Fighting Irish) on
August 15, 1917. This organization was redesignated the 165th
Infantry on the same date. DONOVAN was appointed a Lt. Colonel on
September 3, 1918 and a Colonel on March 3, 1919 and served in the
American Expeditionary Forces from March 26, 1917 through April 22,
1919. He was wounded twice in action on July 31, 1918 and October
15, 1918.

Miss ISABELLE THROWBRIDGE, Secretary, New York State Bar
Association, advised that WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, 2 Wall Street, New
York City, has been a member of the New York State Bar Association

- AL 77-3597

since 1914 and has continued his membership to the present time and is in good standing.

There was no derogatory information contained in the files of the New York State Board of Law Examiners, New York State Adjutant General's Office and/or the New York State Bar Association regarding WILLIAM J. DONOVAN.

The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM C. PIPER.

AT SYRACUSE, NEW YORK:

Dr. FINIA G. CRAWFORD, Vice-Chancellor, Syracuse University, advised that in 1929 he and other members of Syracuse University served on a committee appointed by the then Governor, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, to revise the New York State Public Service Commission laws. Dr. CRAWFORD said that the applicant was the legal representative for the committee and had his headquarters in New York City at that time. Dr. CRAWFORD said he was well acquainted with the applicant at that time and has had occasional contact with him since then. He described the applicant as a person of the highest character, reputation, and habits, and one who was highly regarded by his friends and associates. He stated the applicant was completely dependable and trustworthy. Dr. CRAWFORD stated further that during World War II, the applicant headed the Office of Strategic Services in Washington, D. C. He also said that during the time he has been acquainted with the applicant, he has never heard him say anything nor has he ever heard anyone say anything about the applicant which would indicate that he was not a loyal or patriotic citizen. Dr. CRAWFORD stated that he would highly recommend the applicant for a position of trust and confidence. He also stated that to his knowledge there was no one presently at Syracuse University who was acquainted with the applicant.

- RUC -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

bjg

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 6/19/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/17,18,19/53	REPORT MADE BY THOMAS J. LARDNER
TITLE CHANGED WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, aka: "Wild Bill" Donovan			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Background from "Who's Who" set forth. Education and association with Columbia University verified. No derogatory information. Appointee not admitted to Bar in First Judicial Department. No record of action by Bar of City of New York or Committee on Grievances. Association with own law firm verified. Appointee highly recommended. No record at Republican State Committee. Acting Secretary recommends. No record at 69th Regiment Armory. Neighborhood favorable. Associates recommend. ELIZABETH BENTLEY, admitted Soviet agent, advises OSS infiltrated by individuals aiding USSR. No derogatory credit information NYC. No criminal record for appointee and family.

- RUC -

REFERENCES:

Bureau teletype to New York, 6/15/53.
Albany teletype to New York, 6/18/53.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being marked changed to reflect the additional name for the appointee as "WILD BILL" DONOVAN, as noted during the course of the interview with United States Attorney J. EDWARD LUMBARD.

BACKGROUND

The following background information was obtained from "Who's Who In America," 1952 - 1953.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau 1 - New York (77-16713)		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">77-58706-9</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">SE 5</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> RECORDED-20 INDEXED - 20 </div>

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-50225-2

NY 77-16713

DONOVAN, WILLIAM JOSEPH, lawyer; born at Buffalo, New York, January 1, 1883; son of TIMOTHY P. and ANNA (LENNON) DONOVAN; A. B. Degree, Columbia University, 1905; LLB Degree, 1907; LL.D. Degree, Niagara University, 1919; University of Notre Dame, 1929; Syracuse University, 1931; married RUTH RAMSEY, July 14, 1914; Children - DAVID RAMSEY, PATRICIA (Deceased). Began practice at Buffalo, 1907; Counsel for New York State Fuel Administration, 1924; Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor of New York, 1922; United States District Attorney, Western District of New York, 1922 - 1924; Member United States Delegation to Customs Regulations Conference between United States and Canada, 1923; Assistant Attorney General of United States, 1924 - 1925; the Assistant to the Attorney General, March 1925 - 1929; United States Commissioner and Chairman, Rio Grande River Compact Commission, 1928 - 1929; United States Commissioner, Chairman, Colorado River Commission Service, 1929; Member, Donovan, Leisure, Newton, Lumbard and Irvine; Counsel for Bar Association, City of New York and New York and Bronx County Bar Associations in bankruptcy investigations, 1929; Counsel to Commission for Revision New York State Public Service Commission Laws, 1929; Member Board of Arbitration under National Mediation Board, controversy between American Train Dispatchers Association, and Boston & Maine Railroad; Republican candidate for Governor of New York, 1932; served as Captain, Troop I, First Cavalry, New York National Guard; Assistant Chief of Staff, 27th Division, AEF, World War, Major, Brigade, Adjutant, 51st Brigade; Major, 165th Infantry (Old 69th New York), advancing to rank of Colonel; wounded three times; unofficial observer for Secretary of Navy, Great Britain, July - August, 1940, Southeastern Europe, December, 1920 - March 1941.

Mr. DONOVAN was appointed Co-ordinator of Information, July, 1941; Director, Office of Strategic Services, June, 1942; rank of Major General, United States Army. Decorated (World War I) Congressional Medal of Honor for conduct in action near Landres and St. Georges, France, October 14 - 15, 1918; Distinguished Service Cross for conduct in crossing River Ourcq, July 28 - 31, 1918; D.S.M. for services in Bacarat Sector, July 28 - 31, and Meuse - Argonne Offensive, October, 1918 (United States); 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

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Lateran Medal, Order St. Sylvester; (Papal); Commander's Cross with Star of Polonia Restituta (Poland), First Class of most exalted order of White Elephant; Santi Mala Medal (Siam); Commander Cross with Star, Royal Order of St. Olav (Norway); Alexander Hamilton Medal Association Alumni; Columbia College Memorial Association; Bar, City of 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 Place, South, New York, New York; also, Chapel Hill Farm, Berryville, Virginia. Office: 2 Wall Street, New York City.

Education

Columbia University
116 Street and Broadway
New York, New York

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES J. DALY.

Miss MARY LEE, Clerk, Professional Schools, advised that the appointee entered Columbia Law School on September 25, 1905, and received an LLB Degree on May 27, 1908. There was nothing of a derogatory nature noted in the appointee's scholastic record.

Miss BERTHA SECOR, Clerk, Columbia College, advised that the appointee entered Columbia College in September, 1903, and received an AB Degree in June, 1905. The appointee's residence at that time was Buffalo, New York, and his date of birth was listed as January 1, 1883 at Buffalo. There was nothing of a derogatory nature noted in the appointee's scholastic record and none of his former professors were available for interview.

Association With Columbia University

Alumni Federation of Columbia University, Incorporated
Morningside Heights, New York City

Mrs. DOROTHY DOYLE, Clerk, advised that the Federation records reflected that the appointee is a resident of 4 Sutton Place, South, and has been a member of the Columbia College Alumni since 1922 and Columbia Law School Alumni since 1928. Mrs. DOYLE stated that her records further reflected appointee's business address was 2 Wall Street.

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Council On The Committee Of Development
And Research Of Columbia University
Morningside Heights, New York City

Edw
Mr. ~~THEODORE~~ S. RUGGLES, Assistant Director, advised that the appointee is presently the Chairman of the above-mentioned council. He stated that the appointee had been a Special Advisor to President Eisenhower when he was President of Columbia University. Mr. RUGGLES stated that the appointee had been appointed to these positions by President Eisenhower. Mr. RUGGLES stated further that the appointee has been very active in the above council and has been largely responsible for its success and effectiveness. He stated that on occasion he has worked closely with the appointee in the functioning of this organization and has found that the appointee is an outstanding administrator, possessing excellent character and reputation. Mr. RUGGLES recommended the appointee most highly and stated that he is a loyal American citizen whom he would recommend for a position of trust.

Admission To The New York State Bar

First Judicial Department, Appellate Division
New York State Supreme Court
25 Street and Madison Avenue

The following investigation was conducted by SA JAMES F. MC'CONNELL.

Pratt
HARRY STANTON, Assistant Clerk, advised their records reflected that the appointee was not admitted to the New York State Bar through the First Department. Mr. STANTON advised further there was no record of any action taken against the appointee by that Department.

Association Of The Bar, City of New York
42 West 44 Street

Pratt
Miss GEORGIA MEYER, Clerk, Treasurer's Office, advised that the appointee was elected to the membership in the above organization on February 2, 1922.

Mr. GERALD MacDONAGH, Office of the Secretary, advised that the appointee held the following offices in the above association: 1931 to 1934 on the Executive Committee; 1934 on the Nominating Committee. Mr. MacDONAGH also advised that the appointee has been a sustaining member of the Association since 1922.

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out
Mr. PETHUEL WEBSTER, President of the Association of the Bar, of the City of New York, and a senior partner in the firm of Webster, Sheffield and Chrystie, 17 Broad Street, advised that he has known the appointee since 1927. At that time he was the appointee's personal assistant in the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice, the appointee at that time being an Assistant to the Attorney General. Mr. WEBSTER stated that the appointee remained in that position until 1929 when HERBERT HOOVER became President and the appointee returned to New York to found his law firm. In 1930 Mr. WEBSTER came to New York and joined the appointee's firm and remained until 1934. Mr. WEBSTER advised that since 1934 he has seen the appointee intermittently. Mr. WEBSTER stated that the appointee has a wonderful record as a soldier, public official and a lawyer. Mr. WEBSTER recommended the appointee most highly as to his character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He knows nothing derogatory concerning him and recommended him for a position of trust.

New York County Lawyers' Association
14 Vesey Street

in
Mr. MATRICE OPPENHEIM, Membership Secretary, advised that the appointee became a member of the Association in 1929 and is presently a sustaining member in good standing.

Committee on Discipline
14 Vesey Street

in
Mr. GEORGE R. ADAMS, Attorney for the above committee, advised that they possessed no record of any action taken against the appointee.

Committee On Grievances Of The Association
Of The Bar For The City Of New York
14 Vesey Street

in
Mr. LEWIS E. REYNOLDS, Assistant Attorney for the above committee, advised they possessed no record of any action taken against the appointee.

EMPLOYMENT

Donovan, Leisure, Lumbard, Newton and Irvine
2 Wall Street

in
The following investigation was conducted by SA GEORGE F. LUECKENHOFF.