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

WASHINGTON DC
NEW YORK INDIANAPOLIS
ALBANY BALTIMORE ST. LOUIS RICHMOND
WPG (111)

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 THE FC
COUNCIL THROUGH INVESTIGATION AS TO HIS CHARACTHER, LOYALTY,
REPUTATION, AN OCTAVE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DONOVAN. THIS CASE
SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO A MATURE, EXPERIENCED AND WELL QUALIFIED
AGENT AND AFFORDED CONTINUOUS ATTENTION TO INSURE THAT THE DEADLINES
IS MET. FEB OUT INOUCES LEADS BY FETTY N, ACCURATE AND
ADDITIONAL G. L. T. D. T. AT A WRITTEN AND ORAL REPORT TO
CREDIT AND CRIMINAL CHIEF CONCERNING EACH. TELL ANY INVESTIGATIONS
DIVISION, SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION, BY JUNE TWENTY AND WITHOUT
FAIL.

CC: 2 - 2 TO (BCC) 

SE-32

RECORDED-141

77-58766-1

Request recd. 6-15, by let dated 6-12-53, from Secretary of
State Dulles.
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 TELETYPewriter, ASCERTAIN CURPENT 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 DISC
FBI WASH DC 6-15-53 6-24 PM JG
SAC BUFFALO ALBANY RICHMOND 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 TELETYP, 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 NY IP BA SL ADVISED
BU OK FBI BU/ REA
AL OK FBI AL/ HLM
RH OK FBI RH/ VLC
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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
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INSURE THAT THE DEADLINE IS MET. SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS BY TELETYPING,
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
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END ACK FOR 2 IN ORDER
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**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 [REDACTED] was suspected.

**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 R. STEAD 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.

**COPIES OF THIS REPORT**

1 - Bureau (A-SPD)
2 - New York (65-1H-61)
2 - Cincinnati
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 BIELENSKI 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 HOMES be there to hear the facts in the case.

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

Upon arrival there, Assistant Secretary of State HOMES 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 none of yours." DONOVAN stated that the case was generally discussed and he was later informed by Mr. HOMES that while he, DONOVAN, was talking with Mr. HOMES, 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 ABRASIA 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 May, while talking to HED 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 PARKER HOLLIN that Lyon had said concerning [REDACTED].
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 LARSEN, who, he recalls, was in the U. S. Navy and attempted to secure a job with OSS.

REPEATED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

- 3 -
General DONOVAN was interviewed in Dayton, Ohio, on May 23, 1950, upon the telephonic request of the 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 FROM NEW YORK 17 10-22 PM
DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT

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. ACCEPT 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. RECORD-92 77-58706-2

JUL 22 1943
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 CONTROVERSAY BETWEEN AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHERS ASSOCIATION AND B & M RR, COORDINATOR OF INFO FORTYONE. DIRECTOR OF CSS 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
SACS BUFFALO AND NEW YORK

URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN - SGT. BURIED JUNE TWENTY TWO NEXT - SUBMIT 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. NEDRIGH, ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AT SUNY UNIVERSITY. CONDUCT NECESSARY INTERVIEWS.

KELLY

END

JPH:hlm
77-3397
cc: Director, FBI

77-58806
NR

23 June 22 1943

15
WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 12 18 9-17P
DIRECTOR 

...U R G E N T....

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

BOARDMAN

RICHMOND ADVISED

END

NY R 12 WA JG

26 JUL 221935

RECORDED-92 77-58706-3
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

Enclosure

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

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


m. Ruth Rumsey July 14, 1914; children — David Rumsey, Patricia (dec.).


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.
June 18, 1953

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

26 Jul 1953
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 Ramsey July 14, 1914; children — David Ramsey, Patricia (dec.).


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 Baccarat sector, July 28-31, and Meuse-Argonne Offensive, Oct. 1918 (U.S.), Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre with palm and silver star (France); Croce di Guerra (Italy); (World War II) Oak leaf cluster on D.S.M. for services as dir. of strategic services (U.S.), Order of Crow (Italy), Knight Comdr. Order of British Empire (Great Britain), Comdr. Legion of Honor (France), Grand officer Order of Leopold with palm (Belgium), Papal Lateran medal, Order St. Sylvester (Roma), Comdr.'s Cross with star of Poland, First Class of Most Exalted Order of White Elephant, Santi Baha medal (Siam), Comdr. Cross with star Royal Order of St. Olav (Norway); Alexander Hamilton Medal Assn., Alumni Columbia Coll. Dem. Assn. Bar City New York (ex-off. cou. 1931), Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Beta 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, S.
6-18-53  URGENT

SAC NEW YORK

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. RESUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN, FIFTY THREE.

REFER TO FOLLOWING REFERENCES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INVESTIGATION:
URFIRE ONE HUNDRED DASH TWO FIVE NINE ZERO FOUR, J. L. LONSDALE,
URFIRE DATED APRIL SEVEN FIFTY THREE; URFIRE ONE HUNDRED DASH NINE
SIX SIX THREE ZERO, DUNCAN LEE, REPORT OF SA GALLAGHER DATED
JANUARY TWENTY, FIFTY THREE, PAGE THREE; URFIRE ONE HUNDRED DASH
ONE ZERO NINE SEVEN SEVEN FOUR, WILLIAM ADISON PRICE, JR. DASH C,
REPORT OF SA JOHN L. FAGE DATED FEBRUARY SEVENTEEN FIFTY THREE,
PAGE EIGHT.

HOOVER

MLI: DJ

77-58706-5

RECORDED-92
NEW YORK 15 FROM WASH DC 13 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
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 HGUA 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 SIXYTEIGHT, 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 1939
END OF PAGE ONE
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 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 TWENTY-TWO, NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

BOARDMAN

NEW HAVEN ADVISED HLD

TWO COPIES WFO
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

RECORDED-92

2 6 JUL 2 7-150-4
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. Lt. PINLA G. CRAWFORD, Syracuse University, highly recommends applicant as to character, loyalty and associates.

New York City teletype dated 6-17-53.
Albany teletype dated 6-18-53.
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. BONBRIGT, 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. LEBMAN. 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.
Mr. WILLIAM F. 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 WALTER 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 Department, Rochester, New York, November 7, 1907.

Mr. FLOYD MELIUS, Clerk, New York State Court of Appeals, advised 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
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 C. 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 -

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.
DONOVAN, WILLIAM JOSEPH, lawyer; born at Buffalo, New York, January 1, 1883; son of TIMOTHY P. and ANNA (LDAUGH) DONOVAN; A.B. Degree, Columbia University, 1905; LLB Degree, 1907; LLB Degree, Niagara University, 1910; University of Notre Dame, 1920; Syracuse University, 1931; married RUTH EASLEY, July 14, 1914; children - DAVID EASLEY, 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 - 1926; 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, Lombard 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, 1940 - 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 Landrec 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 Fascar 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
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 (Siem); Commander Cross with Star, Royal Order of St. Clav (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 MARK, L.D., Clerk, Professional Schools, advised that the appointee entered Columbia Law School on September 27, 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. DONALD DOYLE, Clerk, advised that the Federation records reflected that the appointee is a resident of 1 Sutton Place, South, and has been a member of the Columbia College Alumni since 1926 and Columbia Law School Alumni since 1928. Mrs. DOYLE stated that her records further reflected appointee's business address was 2 Wall Street.
NY 77-16713

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

Mr. THEODORE E. 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 MR. JAMES F.
O'CONNELL.

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

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.
Mr. METHUEL 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 Christie, 100 Broadway, 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 HUGO 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

Mr. PATRICK O'CONNOR, Membership Secretary, advised that the appointee became a member of the Association in 1930 and is presently a sustaining member in good standing.

Committee on Discipline 14 Vesey Street

Mr. GEORGE F. 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

Mr. LEWIS P. BYNGHOLM, Assistant Attorney for the above committee, advised that they possessed no record of any action taken against the appointee.

EMERGENCY

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

The following investigation was conducted by SA. GEORGE P. LUCKENHOF.
RALSTON R. IRVINE, Senior Partner, advised that he has been associated with the appointee since 1926 when both were in the Department of Justice. The appointee founded the firm which bears his name, in approximately 1929, when he returned from Washington. Mr. IRVINE advised that he has been associated both professionally and socially with the appointee and recommended him most highly as to his character, reputation, loyalty to the United States Government and his associates.

Mr. IRVINE stated that the appointee is one of the greatest living Americans from the point of service that he has rendered to the United States. Mr. IRVINE advised that he knows nothing derogatory concerning the appointee and recommended him most highly.

The following partners in the firm who have been associated with the appointee since 1927 and 1929 respectively, both professionally and socially furnished substantially the same remarks as Mr. IRVINE and recommended the appointee and his family most highly: BRECK P. McALLISTER, OTTO C. DEPINO, JR.

Republican State Committee
41 East 42 Street

The following investigation was conducted by the reporting agent.

COLONEL WALTER BLISH, Acting Secretary, advised that there is no record maintained of the appointee's connection with the Republican Party at the above address. Colonel BLISH stated that he has known the appointee professionally since World War I. Colonel BLISH stated that the appointee has a record of loyalty for the United States which cannot be surpassed by any other individual in this country. He stated that during both World Wars and in the interim between them he has handled all types of classified and confidential material. He stated that the appointee is not only a patriotic and loyal American citizen but he is an outstanding attorney as well. Colonel BLISH stated that the appointee has both a high civilian and military record. He knows nothing derogatory concerning him and recommends him most highly for a position of trust with the United States Government.

69th Regiment Armory
25th and Lexington Avenue

BILAL NOCCIO, Clerk, advised the above Armory possessed no record of the appointee's association with the 16th Regiment.
NY 77-16713

NEIGHBORHOOD

The following investigation was conducted by SAGRAYWOOD S. KISSENAH.

1 Sutton Place, South,
New York City

Mr. HARRY HOPKINS, Doorman, advised that the appointee and his wife leased an apartment at the above address during the summer months approximately two or three years ago. Mr. HOPKINS advised that they were excellent tenants and recommended them most highly as to their character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He knows nothing derogatory concerning them and recommends the appointee for a position of trust.

HARRY SMITH, Superintendent, advised that the appointee and his wife leased an apartment during the summer months from 1946 to approximately 1949. He stated that they were excellent tenants who caused no trouble in the apartment house and he recommended them most highly as to their character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. Mr. SMITH knew nothing derogatory concerning them and stated that the appointee is a man well qualified for a position of trust with the United States Government.

4 Sutton Place, South
New York City

HARRY ROBINS, rental agent for the HENRY PHIBBS Estate, advised that the appointee and his wife have resided at the above address since May of 1946. He stated that his association with the family has been of a professional nature and that from this association he would recommend them most highly as to their character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He stated that the appointee's son resides at baccyville, Virginia, at the appointee's country estate.

Mr. ROBINS advised that he knew nothing derogatory concerning the appointee or his family and recommended him most highly for a position of trust.

Mr. RENNY DE FOREST ALEXANDER, a tenant, and Captain RALPH HAMMOND, 230 Park Avenue, who subleased the above apartment to the appointee, both furnished substantially the same remarks concerning the appointee and his family background as did Mr. ROBINS.
ASSOCIATES

LUCIUS D. CLAY, Chairman of the Board, Continental Can Company, 100 West 42 Street, advised SACcohOPH. LUSBAND that he had been acquainted with the appointee for approximately ten to twelve years. He stated that he had worked closely with the appointee while in Washington during the war and had visited with him both in Germany and New York on numerous occasions. He stated that he had the highest regard for the appointee's character, reputation, associates, and considers him to be an outstanding citizen of the United States, whose loyalty is beyond question. He stated that due to the appointee's many successful associations with the United States Government, he would highly recommend him for any top Government position.

The following investigation was conducted by the reporting agent.

J. LIDW LUMBAID, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and a law partner of the appointee, advised that he joined the appointee's firm on November 11, 1919, and has been both professionally and socially related to him since that time. Mr. LUMBAID stated that the appointee is the greatest patriot in the United States, and the most decorated American civilian. During his association with the United States Government, the appointee has been entrusted with responsible and confidential positions by every President since Woodrow Wilson.

Mr. LUMBAID stated that the appointee would be the best representative that 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. LUMBAID stated that the appointee has great qualities of imagination and resourcefulness. He stated further that the appointee has an enormous amount of energy for a man seventy years old. Mr. LUMBAID recommended the appointee unqualifiedly as to his character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He stated that the appointee is known to his intimates as "Wild Bill" DONOVAN. He stated that his son DAVID resides at their country estate in Virginia and his wife resides with the appointee here in New York.

JAY C. ACKER, Confidential Assistant to Mr. LUMBAID, advised that he had been associated with the appointee's law firm since 1947. He stated that he has known the appointee since that time in a professional relationship. He recommended the appointee unqualifiedly as to his character, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He knows nothing derogatory concerning him and recommends him for a position of trust.
Dr. James C. BONBRIGHi, Professor of Economics, Columbia University, advised that he first met the appointee when he (DONOVAN) was serving as a Counsel to the Committee engaged in the revision of the Public Service Commission Laws for New York State. Dr. BONBRIGHi stated that his association with the appointee has not been a close one and he last saw him during World War II in Washington, D.C. Dr. BONBRIGHi stated that the appointee is an outstanding lawyer who has a high public record. He recommended him as to his character, ability, reputation and loyalty to the United States Government. He knows nothing derogatory concerning him and recommends him for a responsible government position.

MISCELLANEOUS

Elizabeth Terrill BENTLEY, an editing service espionage agent, has advised the following:

From 1941 to 1945 she had operated as a courier in a Soviet espionage network which was concerned with the recruiting of highly-placed government employees, and the obtaining of information from them to which they had access. Jacob Golos was her Soviet superior. In 1942 Golos was advised that BENTLEY was going to Washington, D.C., with General DONOVAN in the Office of OSS. Thenceforth, some material was obtained through LEE which was not very valuable and Golos ordered BENTLEY to handle LEE directly. BENTLEY contacted LEE in Washington and from his conversation with him learned what type of material he could furnish, and also learned that LEE himself realized that the information he was giving was destined for Russian intelligence. LEE later was shifted to the Japanese Division of OSS, and was furnishing information about Japanese agents in China, and miscellaneous data, the exact nature of which BENTLEY could not recall. LEE furnished the information either orally or written. BENTLEY stated that LEE through his intimate association with General DONOVAN in OSS, had learned of a proposal by General DONOVAN to have some NKVD representatives come to the United States in exchange for an OSS mission to Russia. This proposal was looked upon unfavorably by the President and Fleet Admiral LYN. LEE had become frightened and excited over the prospect of such a mission, and his visions of this group visiting him at his home and mentioning his cooperation.
BENTLEY advised further that LEE, while on duty with OSS in Washington, furnished her confidential data, knew her to be a Communist and later suspected her of being a Soviet agent. She also paid her Communist Party membership dues.

In an interview with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1947, in a hearing before a New York Federal Grand Jury in 1948, and in testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1949, LEE denied that she had ever furnished any confidential data to BENTLEY or any other unauthorized individuals, or that she had ever engaged in any Communist Party activities.

In testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on July 31, 1949, BENTLEY stated that LEE, a legal advisor to General DONOVAN in OSS, was her first contact in that agency, and there were, however, a number of individuals employed by OSS who were supplying information to her which she turned over to her Russian superior. In addition to LEE, BENTLEY also operated as a courier for other employees of the OSS who were apparently operating independently of each other. One such individual was MAURICE HALPERIN.

During the investigation of the activities of DONOVAN, LEE by the Federal Bureau of Investigation the following was noted.

T-1, 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 1943 that he was well acquainted with DONOVAN LEE when LEE was employed with the appointee's law firm. T-1 stated that LEE was 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. T-1 stated that LEE had been active in the affairs of Russian War Relief because he had been assigned by the FBI to assist in the corporate organization of this group. This assignment came about because of the interest of WILLIAM DONOVAN and others in the law firm in the establishment of Russian War Relief.

T-1 stated that he and others in the office had "trusted" LEE because of his connection with Russian War Relief. However, T-1 stated that they did not attribute his connection with this organization to any particular interest in Communism or Soviet Russia. T-1 stated that he did not recall any instance in which he and LEE had ever engaged in the discussion of politics during his association with him at the Donovan Law firm.
NY 77-16713

In regard to Russian war Relief the following is to be noted:

The Fourth Report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, California State Legislature, lists the Russian War Relief, Inc., 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 Russian War Relief was a bona fide American agency, the hard core of Communist influence and direction is evident."

CRedit

SE RICHARD N. O'NEILL caused a search to be made of the credit records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York in regard to the appointee and his family. Nothing of a derogatory nature was noted.

CRIMINAL

SA ALFRED J. MIESK caused a search to be made of the arrest records of the New York Police Department in regard to the appointee and his family. No record was found.

- RUC -
IDENTITY OF INFORMANT

T-1

The identity of the informant is [redacted].

The above information was furnished to the Bureau by the report of SA Lester O. Callender, 1/20/51. New York, entitled Espionage - R. Internal Security Act of 1950.
FBI WASH FIELD
6/20/53
DIRECTOR AND SAC ST. LOUIS
URGENT
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SL. REBUTAL SIX FIFTEEN FIFTY-THREE
AND FIFTY-TWO; FIFTY-THREE EDITION OF WHO'S WHO. NO OFFICIAL
RECORDS FOR VARIOUS FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS AS YET LOCATED BY WPO.
CHECK SL SOURCES.

HOOD

WNP/1mb
WPO 77-44319

RECORDED-92

26 JUL 22 1953
(R.B. Hood)

26 JUL 22 1953

(Received)

26 JUL 22 1953

(Received)
New Haven 10, Connecticut
June 20, 1953

SAC, NEW YORK

URGENT:
WILLIAM JOSEPH DOLOVAN, C.I. REURTEN SIX EIGHTEEN LAST REQUESTING
NH SURVEY RE 

WALTER R. HANGFIELD, WAS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE
FOREGOING. NY REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A SUPPLEMENTARY ADMINISTRATIVE
PAGE ON CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT T-TWO REFERRED TO IN REPORT OF SA
JOHN J. WARD DATED AT NEW HAVEN SIX TWENTY FIFTY THREE IN CAPTIONED
CASE. THIS REFERENCE TO PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE OF
ON JANUARY NINE, FORTY SIX AS SET FORTH IN THE REPORT OF SA
F. J. ZARGON AUGUST TWENTY-FIVE, FORTY-NINE, UR FILE SIX FIVE
DASH ONE FIVE OUGHT THREE OUGHT, ENTITLED
SUPPLY INFORMER LOCALIZATION INCLUDING MAIL OF APPELS PARTICI-
PATING IN THAT SURVEILLANCE.

CASPER

JWN:ac
62-1740

ccg 1- Bureau (ATTN: SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION,
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION)
REGISTERED MAIL

77-58706
NR

25 JUL 22 1953
As will be set forth below, Mrs. WALTER B. TANFILDE of Birchside Road, Norwalk, Conn., was formerly employed by the Office of Strategic Services and by the law firm of Donovan, Leisure, Newton, Lumbard and Irving. Her husband, WALTER R. TANFILDE, as of April, 1951, was an attorney with the same law firm.
The Confidential Informants utilized in the report of Special Agent JOHN J. WARD dated June 20, 1953 at New Haven, Connecticut and entitled "WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SPECIAL INQUIRY" are as follows:

T-1 is Confidential Informant [redacted] location of original as set forth in the report of Special Agent FRANCIS W. ZANGLE August 25, 1949 at New York, entitled [redacted].

T-2 is a physical surveillance on January 29, 1949 conducted by SA F. D. O'BRIEN and SA LAURENCE W. SPILLANE in New York City. Location of original as set forth in surveillance log of [redacted] in the Gregory Matter, New York file 65-14603. The information attributed to this source was previously reported in the report entitled [redacted], ESPIONAGE - R" dated August 25, 1949 at New York City by SA FRANCIS W. ZANGLE.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT BUREAU

REPORT MADE AT
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

DATE WHEN MADE
6/20/53

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE
6/16-20/53

REPORT MADE BY
LEO J. KENNEDY

FILE NO. PIC


- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bureau teletype dated 6/15/53.
Albany teletype dated 6/18/53.

DÉTAILS: AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK

The 1952-1953 edition of Who's Who in America reflects the following information:

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN was born at Buffalo, New York, on January 1, 1883, the son of TIMOTHY P. and ANNA (LANNON) DONOVAN. On July 7, 1914, he married RUTH RUMSEY and two children, DAVID RUMSEY and PATRICIA DONOVAN (deceased), were born of the marriage. Mr. DONOVAN entered the practice of law at Buffalo in 1907 and was United States Attorney for the Western District of New York from 1922 to 1924. He is presently a member of the Buffalo Club.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED BY SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

77-58706-12

INDEXED-92

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

2 - Bureau (AMSD)

1 - Buffalo (62-1011)

D. E. ATTENDANT DEPARTURE OFFICE 7-2014
**BIRTH DATA**

The records of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York pertaining to Mr. DONOVAN's admission to practice reflect his birth at Buffalo on January 1, 1885.

**ADMISSION TO FEDERAL BAR**

The records of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York reflect that WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was admitted to practice in this court on April 22, 1913.

**STATUS IN LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION**

Mrs. IRENE TATU, Assistant Secretary of Erie County Bar Association, advised from records of the Association that WILLIAM J. DONOVAN has been continually a member in good standing since September of 1909. No grievances have ever been filed against Mr. DONOVAN.

Mrs. TATU, who has been an attorney in Buffalo since 1915, stated that she has known Mr. DONOVAN only by reputation as a highly capable attorney of excellent character and associates. He is generally regarded as an outstanding patriot.

Mr. DONOVAN's former partners, BRADLEY GOODYEAR, GANSON DEPEW, Jr., JULES RANDELL and FRANK G. RAICHLE, were known casually to Mr. TATU as highly regarded lawyers of excellent character and reputation. She has heard nothing which might reflect unfavorably upon their loyalty to the United States.

**EMPLOYMENT**

City Directories disclose that Mr. DONOVAN was a member of the following legal firms:

- 1917 to 1919 - O'Brien, Donovan and Goodyear
- 1920 - Donovan and Goodyear
- 1921 to 1925 - Donovan, Raichle and Depew
- 1926 to 1931 - Donovan and Raichle
- 1933 - Donovan, Raichle and Randall
- 1934 to 1940 - Donovan and Raichle

Mr. FRANK G. RAICHLE, Jr., Genesee Building, stated that he made the acquaintance of Mr. DONOVAN shortly after World War I and that several years later they formed a partnership which continued until 1941 when Mr. DONOVAN became Director of the Office of Strategic Services. However, from 1929 until the termination of the partnership, Mr. DONOVAN took practically no part in firm affairs, his only interest being in fees on pending matters of minor character.
While associated with Mr. RAICHLE, DONOVAN became United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. Mr. RAICHLE vaguely recalls, however, that prior to the expiration of his term, Mr. DONOVAN became Assistant Attorney General of the United States. The last several years were spent by Mr. DONOVAN in Washington, D.C., and thereafter, he was almost continually a resident of New York City although maintaining a residence at the home of his mother-in-law in Buffalo at 712 Delaware Avenue.

Continuing, Mr. RAICHLE advised that Mr. DONOVAN's present firm, DONOVAN, LEISURE, NEWTON and IRVINE, 2 Wall Street, New York City, was formed in 1929. The firm has a very large and lucrative practice representing a number of large corporations. Mr. NEWTON was formerly President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad while EDWARD LOMBARD, a former member of this firm, is now United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Previously, Mr. LOMBARD was a justice of the New York State Supreme Court. Mr. DONOVAN's firm occupies a high status in legal circles and has an irreproachable reputation.

Prior to his association with Mr. RAICHLE, Mr. DONOVAN had been in partnership with BRADLEY GOODYEAR and GANSON DEFLIN, Jr., the latter of whom has been deceased since 1924. Mr. GOODYEAR, now retired, is a resident of Cooperstown, New York. One JULES RANDALL was an associate of the firm for a few years in the 1930's, but died in New York City about ten years ago while associated with one UNTREMEEYER. Another former partner of Mr. DONOVAN, EMORY TUCKER, during the period of Mr. DONOVAN's inactive connection with the firm, died about a year ago.

All of these former partners were described by Mr. RAICHLE as reputable attorneys and loyal citizens of good character and associates.

With regard to Mr. DONOVAN's family, RAICHLE stated that his parents have been dead since at least the early 1920's. His father was a laborer and although Mr. RAICHLE does not know for certain, he has heard that the family was in the lower income levels.

Further, Mr. RAICHLE advised that Mr. DONOVAN's wife, RUTH RUMSEY DONOVAN, was a member of a wealthy and socially prominent family. Her brother, DEXTER RUMSEY, is President of the Erie County Savings Bank, Buffalo. Mrs. DONOVAN is well known to Mr. RAICHLE through frequent contacts at various times over a period of approximately 30 years. He considers her a loyal citizen of excellent character, reputation and associates.

According to Mr. RAICHLE, DONOVAN had two children, DAVID RUMSEY DONOVAN, age 35, who is believed to be the operator of a
large experimental farm in Virginia, and PATRICIA DONOVAN who was killed in an automobile accident about 11 years ago while attending college. Mr. RAICHELE had little contact with the children but, to the best of his information and belief, they were of good character and reputation. There was no indication of disloyalty to the United States on the part of either.

Mr. DONOVAN's brother, TIMOTHY, who died about 12 years ago, was an outstanding Buffalo citizen, Mr. RAICHELE said. His other brother, VINCENT, is a Catholic Priest attached to an order who, for many years, was assigned to New York City. An only sister of Mr. DONOVAN, LORETTA, lived for several years in Ohio, but Mr. RAICHELE vaguely recalls that she later moved to the far west. Mr. RAICHELE has a faint recollection that LORETTA's first husband died and that she remarried.

Nothing derogatory is known to Mr. RAICHELE concerning the loyalty, reputation, character or associates of Mr. DONOVAN's immediate family.

Mr. RAICHELE recommends Mr. DONOVAN's appointment in the most laudatory terms. He said it is difficult to find words to adequately describe the excellent character of Mr. DONOVAN. In Mr. RAICHELE's opinion, DONOVAN is a man of "impeccable honesty in his professional and personal relations." 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. RAICHELE described DONOVAN as "indomitable, aggressive and intelligent." Mr. DONOVAN's personality is "charming and magnetic" and he is an exceedingly capable attorney. In the latter regard, Mr. RAICHELE pointed out that while the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, Mr. DONOVAN successfully tried a number of highly publicized cases and has been outstanding in appellate work. Further, Mr. RAICHELE stated that Mr. DONOVAN is versatile in all phases of legal practice.

Dr. CARLOS C. ALDEN, Dean emeritus of the University of Buffalo School of Law who for several years in the 1930's was counsel for the firm of DONOVAN and RAICHELE, said that at the time of this association Mr. DONOVAN spent practically all of his time in New York City and as a consequence Dr. ALDEN had little contact with him. However, Dr. ALDEN has known Mr. DONOVAN as an acquaintance over a period of time dating back to approximately 1920.

In Dr. ALDEN's opinion, Mr. DONOVAN is an outstanding American of respectable associations, honest, reliable and capable. As United States Attorney in Buffalo, Mr. DONOVAN rarely engaged in the trial of cases presumably because he had no liking for this phase of the law.
However, he was an excellent administrator and his devotion to duty was unquestionable. In connection with the latter, Dr. Alden referred to the fact that Donovan, while United States Attorney, had sanctioned a raid upon the Saturn Club of which Donovan was then a member. A number of members were charged with violation of the Federal Prohibition Act and as a consequence, Donovan lost the friendship of many wealthy and influential men who were members of the club. However, Mr. Donovan's action in making no distinction between the various clubs, which at that time were being raided by the Alcohol Tax Unit, was generally applauded by Buffalo citizens. In Dr. Alden's opinion, notwithstanding criticism to the contrary, Mr. Donovan was perfectly justified in sponsoring the raid.

Speaking of Mr. Donovan's former legal associates and partners, Dr. Alden described Bradley Goodyear and Ganson DePew, Jr. as respectable citizens who were known to him to be attorneys of good character, reputation and associates. Similar comments were made by Dr. Alden relative to Emory Tucker, now deceased. Jules Randall, former associate of Donovan and Raichle, was known to Dr. Alden only casually as a loyal citizen of good reputation.

ACQUAINTANCES

Mr. James W. Persons, Official Referee in Bankruptcy, Western District of New York, for more than 30 years, stated that he has known Mr. Donovan through frequent contacts as a lawyer until approximately 20 years ago when Donovan became inactive in his Buffalo practice. According to Mr. Persons, Donovan is a man of "great integrity" whose word is his bond and who has a high sense of responsibility as evidenced from the fact that while United States Attorney, he has caused a raid to be made upon lockers of fellow members of the Saturn Club. As a result, Donovan was bitterly criticized by a number of prominent citizens and their animosity has continued to the present date. In Mr. Persons' opinion, Donovan's character is unimpeachable and his associates of the very best. At no time has there ever been any suspicion that Mr. Donovan is not the true patriot that he is generally reported to be. Further, Mr. Persons stated that Mr. Donovan, while practicing in Buffalo, was regarded as a very capable attorney and a very likeable personality. No members of Mr. Donovan's immediate family are known to Mr. Persons, but with regard to his former partners, Bradley Goodyear and Ganson DePew, Jr., Mr. Persons said that these attorneys were men of high repute, excellent character and reputation. Mr. Goodyear, a resident of Cooperstown, New York, is now retired and Ganson DePew, Jr. has been dead for many years. The latter was the son of a leading citizen of Buffalo.

Included in his remarks Mr. Persons said that he would be very happy to recommend Mr. Donovan's appointment to any position in the
Federal Government wherein devotion to the welfare of the United States is of prime importance.

Honorable CARLTON A. FISHER, Justice of New York State Supreme Court, Eighth Judicial Division, stated that Mr. DONOVAN prior to leaving Buffalo was very well known to him through professional contacts. On several occasions during DONOVAN's tenure as United States Attorney, Judge FISHER, who was then a practicing attorney, was in frequent contact with Mr. DONOVAN in the handling of cases involving the New York Central Railroad. These contacts with Mr. DONOVAN were highly satisfactory and Judge FISHER had observed that Mr. DONOVAN was undoubtedly a very capable attorney. At that time, DONOVAN was not considered an outstanding trial attorney but in all other respects, his professional status was excellent. In Judge FISHER's opinion, Mr. DONOVAN is a "go getter", ambitious, absolutely trustworthy and exceptionally personable. There is every reason to believe that DONOVAN merited the various honors accorded him by reason of his brilliant war record, Judge FISHER added.

Little is known to Judge FISHER about Mr. DONOVAN's wife other than the fact that her family was socially well established, wealthy and very respectable.

Other members of Mr. DONOVAN's immediate family, excepting his deceased brother, Dr. TIMOTHY DONOVAN, were unknown to Judge FISHER. Concerning Dr. TIMOTHY DONOVAN, Judge FISHER recalled that his brother was an outstanding surgeon of excellent reputation.

As to Mr. DONOVAN's former partners, Judge FISHER said that BRADLEY GOODYEAR and ONSON DEPUE, Jr. were loyal citizens of excellent families, reputable and considered capable. JULES RANDALL, a former associate of the firm DONOVAN and RAICHLE, was unknown to Judge FISHER.

With regard to the Saturn Club incident, Judge FISHER expressed the opinion that Mr. DONOVAN's raid upon this club while United States Attorney was indicative of strong regard for his oath. There was a violation of the law and DONOVAN was willing to risk the possibility that influential members of the Club would resent his action notwithstanding that they had been warned before hand to discontinue the practice of having liquor in the Club.

DONOVAN's appointment was enthusiastically endorsed by Judge FISHER.

Honorable JOHN KNIGHT, U.S. District Court Judge, Western District of New York, stated that while serving as Republican leader of the N.Y. State Assembly at Albany in the 1920's, he had appointed Mr.
DONOVAN counsel to the Commission for the Revision of the New York State Public Service Commission. For several months thereafter, Judge KNIGHT had worked in close collaboration with Mr. DONOVAN on affairs of the Commission. Judge KNIGHT had occasional contact with Mr. DONOVAN while both were engaged in general practice of the law and, in addition, Judge KNIGHT had occasion to discuss several cases with Mr. DONOVAN while the latter was United States Attorney.

Judge KNIGHT has a high regard for Mr. DONOVAN as an attorney and as a man. He described DONOVAN as an outstanding patriot of high principles, dependable and of excellent associates and reputation. Reference was made by Judge KNIGHT to the Saturn Club incident and he expressed approval of the action taken by Mr. DONOVAN.

Concerning Mr. DONOVAN's former partners, GOODYEAR and DEPEW, Judge KNIGHT stated that these attorneys were known to him in a casual way as respectable attorneys of good character and reputation. Nothing which might reflect unfavorably upon their patriotism could be recalled by Judge KNIGHT.

Mr. DONOVAN's immediate family is unknown to Judge KNIGHT.

Mr. DAVID W. SOWERS, Carpanile Apartments, who has been a member of the Buffalo Club for approximately 30 years, stated that he has known DONOVAN as a fellow member of this club and also through social contacts since DONOVAN's youth. However, during the past 20 years, Mr. SOWERS has rarely seen Mr. DONOVAN by reason of the fact that the latter has been a resident of Washington, D.C., and New York City. Mr. SOWERS is also well acquainted with the family of Mr. DONOVAN's wife and with his former partner, BRADLEY GOODYEAR. GANSON DEPEW, Jr., now deceased, was known to Mr. SOWERS in only a casual way.

In Mr. SOWERS' opinion, Mr. DONOVAN is "very ambitious" and a "go getter." His reputation in Buffalo is excellent and while practicing here, he was regarded as a leading attorney. DONOVAN's patriotism was never subject to question and he fraternized with the best citizens of Buffalo.

Reference was made by Mr. SOWERS to the Saturn Club incident as an indication of DONOVAN's respectability. His action in this case was very unpopular with a large segment of important people in Buffalo because of their belief that Mr. DONOVAN had betrayed their friendship.

The belief was expressed by Mr. SOWERS that Mr. DONOVAN is well qualified for any position involving complete loyalty to the United States, character and ability.
Concerning DONOVAN's former partners, GOODYEAR and DEPEW, Mr. SOWERS stated that these men were unquestionably loyal citizens of excellent character, reputation and associates. Similar comments were made by Mr. SOWERS with regard to DONOVAN's wife who has been known to Mr. SOWERS since she was a young girl. According to Mr. SOWERS, Mrs. DONOVAN's family was very wealthy and leaders in Buffalo society. No other members of Mr. DONOVAN's immediate family are known to Mr. SOWERS.

NEIGHBORHOOD

City Directories list Mr. DONOVAN as a resident of the following addresses:

1917 to 1919 - 826 West Delavan Avenue
1921 to 1924 - 810 West Ferry Street
1927 to 1928 -
and 1939 - New York City
1929 to 1938
and 1940 - 742 Delaware Avenue

Mr. DONOVAN has not been listed in City Directories since 1940.

It is noted that his former residence at 742 Delaware Avenue is now occupied by the University Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars and that all former residences in the immediate vicinity have been occupied for the past several years by business establishments.

Attention is called to the statement of Mr. DONOVAN's former partner, FRANK G. RAICHLE, Jr. that Mr. DONOVAN was rarely in Buffalo during the years 1929 to 1940 and that he has not maintained a residence in this city since the latter year.

CREDIT AND CHEMICAL

The following investigation was conducted by SE
TERENCE W. KELLEY:

The records of the Buffalo Retail Merchants Credit Association reflect that Mr. DONOVAN has always maintained a satisfactory credit rating and, further, that on September 6, 1941, following his appointment as United States Coordinator of Information, he withdrew from his partnership with FRANK G. RAICHLE, Jr.

According to the above records, the credit ratings of Mr. DONOVAN's wife and son were also satisfactory.
There is no reference to Mr. DONOVAN or any member of his immediate family in the records of the Buffalo Police Department or Erie County Sheriff's Office.
With reference to the lead set out in referenced Albany teletype dated June 18, 1953, to interview Mr. WILLIAM J. HICKEY, retired justice of the New York State Supreme Court, who was referred to in reports of the New York State Committee for the Revision of the Public Service Commission as an associate of WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, it is stated that the various persons whose interviews are related in the details of this report, have advised that to their personal knowledge, Mr. DONOVAN was not closely associated with Mr. HICKEY. They explained that HICKEY prior to becoming a Supreme Court Judge was a member of the New York State Assembly and thereafter, Erie County Chairman of the Republican Party, and that DONOVAN's relations with HICKEY were casual and political only in character.

By reason of this information, no effort was made to interview Mr. HICKEY in accordance with the aforesaid lead.
WASHINGTON, BOSTON AND CHICAGO FROM WASH FIELD 22

DIRECTOR AND SAC’S

U.R.G.E.N.T.

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, ST. ARBITRATION HEARINGS UNDER NATIONAL MEDIATION
BOARD IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHER’S ASSOCIATION
AND THE BOSTON AND MAINE RR BEGAN AUG TWELVE NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE OVER THE
QUESTION OF WHETHER THE CENTRALIZATION TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM FROM THE
AR TOWER WOULD BE HANDLED BY TRAIN DIRECTORS OR TRAIN DISPATCHERS. HEARING
BOARD WAS MADE UP OF COL. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, NY ATTORNEY, S. E. MILLER, ASSISTANT
GENERAL MANAGER, BOSTON AND MAINE RR AND O. H. BRAESE, VICE PRESIDENT, AMERICAN
TRAIN DISPATCHER’S ASSOCIATION. ARBITRATION BOARD DECIDED IN AWARD MEETING
NOV NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE TRAIN DISPATCHERS WOULD HANDLE. AWARD FILED WITH
U.S. DISTRICT COURT, CLERK, DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS. FOR INFO OF BOSTON AND
CHICAGO DONOVAN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS A CHIEF OF MISSION.
NEWSPAPERS INDICATE HE IS TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND. BUREAU CONDUCTING
THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AS TO CHARACTER, LOYALTY, REPUTATION, ASSOCIATES AND
QUALIFICATIONS OF DONOVAN. CASE MUST BE ASSIGNED TO A MATURE, EXPERIENCED AND
WELL QUALIFIED AGENT AND AFFORDED CONTINUOUS ATTENTION TO INSURE THAT JUNE
TWENTY-TWO DEADLINE IS MET WITHOUT FAIL. BOSTON INTERVIEW MILLER, CHICAGO
INTERVIEW BRAESE. SUPERINTENDENT INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SI SECTION.

RECORDED 92

09-5870-6-13

26 JUL 22 1933

77-44319
FBI, ST. LOUIS 6-22-53 4-25 PM MMK
DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD URGENT
ATTENTION SI SECTION, INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN, LAST. PERSONNEL,
FRC ADVISED RECORD OF APPOINTEE'S SERVICE WITH OFFICE OF STRATEGIC
SERVICES ARE LOCATED CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WASH., DC. WFO HANDLE
THORNTON
END AND ACK PLS
5-24 PM OK FBI WA SW
TU DISCTVT

2 G JII. 22153
WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK FROM WASH FIELD 22 1:45P
DIRECTOR AND SAC U R G E N T

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SJ, DEPT OF JUSTICE REGISTER REFLECTS DONOVAN
APPOINTED ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON AUGUST FOURTEEN, TWENTYGHT,
CHARGED WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF ANTI TRUST LAWS. APPARENTLY SO SERVED
UNTIL NINETEEN TWENTYNine. WILLIAM D. MITCHELL SERVED AS SOLICITOR GENERAL.
CHARLES D. LAWRENCE SERVED AS ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GEN. NY INTERVIEW FORMER AG
MITCHELL, TWENTY EXCHANGE PLACE AND LAWRENCE, NOW JUDGE U.S. CUSTOMS COURT,
TWO NAUGHT ONE VARICK ST., BOTH NYC.
Files of T-1 were reviewed without locating any derogatory information concerning the captioned individual.

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The files of Baltimore Confidential Informant T-1, another government agency conducting personnel and intelligence investigations, reflect that the captioned individual was the subject of a (x) National Agency check, ( ) partial background investigation, ( ) complete background investigation completed on March 26, 1953, during which no information was developed reflecting adversely upon the character, reputation or loyalty of this individual.

Classified by 3832
From:

28/Jul 4-57-7F

[Signature]

Clerk

2 - Bureau
1 - Baltimore (77-7241)

77-58706-16
T-1 is G-2, Central Records Facility, Fort Holabird, Baltimore, Maryland, the files of which were made available to SI THOMAS L. LAMB, JR., by Commanding Officer of the Facility.

The information contained in the attached report was obtained from G-2 file bearing dossier number 132157th.

The contents of the attached report is being marked SECURITY INFORMATION—SECRET as the G-2 file as so classified.
FBI INDIANAPOLIS

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL TODAY. REPORT SUBMITTED TODAY BY

SA HAROLD BERGER.

BLAYLOCK

END AND ACK PLS

5-45 PM OK FBI WA JG

TU DISC PLS

26 JUL 22 13:19
FBI, RICHMOND  6-23-53   9-11 PM   NSH
DIRECTOR, FBI  ATTN - SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION      ... URGENT ...

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI.  REBURADIOGRAM DATED JUNE
TWENTYTHREE INSTANT. REPORT OF SA WILLIAM H. PRYOR
SUBMITTED JUNE TWENTYTHREE INSTANT. RUC.

JOHNSON

END ACK 2 MESSAGES
E  10-14PM OK FBI WSH DC CCW
OK R 2
TU DISC

26 JUL 22 1953

77-58766-18
WASHINGTON 4 FROM BOSTON 23 9-14 P
DIRECTOR URGENT
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. BUDED JUNE TWENTYTWO FIFTYTHREE. RUC REPORT SUBMITTED BOSTON JUNE TWENTYTHREE FIFTYTHREE BY SA JENNIS M. GORDON.

MARCHESSAULT
END ACK PLS
BS R 4 WA JG
DIS

26 JUL 22 1953

RECORDER 52
77-58706-19
NEW YORK / BOSTON / FROM WASH DC 23 5-05 PM
SAC URGENT
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. BUDED JUNE TWENTY TWO, FIFTY THREE.
REBUTEL JUNE FIFTEEN, FIFTY THREE. ADVISE DATE REPORT
SUBMITTED AND IDENTITY OF REPORTING AGENT.
HOOVER
NY IP AL BA SL RH BS CG BU WFO ADVISED
END
NY WA R 9 NY JLW
BS WA R 1 BS PAC
TU DISC
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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<td>RICHMOND</td>
<td>6/23/53</td>
<td>6/16, 22/53</td>
<td>WILLIAM H. PRYOR</td>
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**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Neighbors at Berryville, Va. report that Gen. DONOVAN has owned Chapel Hill Farm for about 15 years but has never lived there, although his wife and son and daughter-in-law reside on farm. Their reputation, character and loyalty unquestioned. No credit bureau Berryville. No criminal record on Gen. DONOVAN.

- RUG -

**REFERENCE:** New York City teletype to Richmond dated 6/17/53.

**DETAILS:** AT BERRYVILLE, CLARKE COUNTY, VA.

**NEIGHBORHOOD**

Mr. T. M. HOOKER, Mr. CYRUS FINE and Mr. GARIAND M. CARTER, all residing near Berryville and businessmen in the community, informed that Gen. WILLIAM DONOVAN has owned Chapel Hill Farm for about 15 years but has never personally lived there to their knowledge, although he visits his wife, son DAVID, and his daughter-in-law, MARY GRANDIN DONOVAN, who do live on the farm, occasionally on weekends. They reported that the reputation, character and loyalty of Mrs. DONOVAN and Mr. and Mrs. DAVID DONOVAN are above question so far as they know. They also disclosed that DAVID is the owner and operator of the Battletown Transfer Company of Berryville and at the same time operates his father's farm known as Chapel Hill.

**CREDIT**

There is no credit bureau in Clarke County, Va.

**Copies of this report**

- Bureau
  - 1 - Richmond (62-993)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1955-010-001-02
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT MADE AT**

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**REPORT MADE BY**

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**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Mr. SAMUEL E. MILLER, 25 Dyer Avenue, Melrose, Massachusetts, advises he is not well enough acquainted with WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN to comment upon fitness for responsible government position.

**REFERENCE:**

Washington Field teletype to Boston dated June 22, 1953.

**DETAILS:**

**ACQUAINTANCES:**

Mr. SAMUEL E. MILLER, 25 Dyer Avenue, Melrose, Massachusetts, former Assistant General Manager, Boston & Maine Railroad, advised that he met WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN on two occasions while conducting arbitration hearings, but does not feel qualified to comment on his fitness for a position of responsibility with the U. S. Government. He added that DONOVAN impressed him as a person of good character and he personally liked him.

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED:**

[Initial]

**SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE:**

**COPY OF THIS REPORT:**

24-Bureau 650
1-Boston (62-3265)

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77-58766-22

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1953

[Stamp]
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**INDIANAPOLIS**

**DATE WHEN MADE:** 6/23/53  
**PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:** 6/19/53  
**REPORT MADE BY:** CAROLE A. DURGER (A) R.N.

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**
Records Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana, indicate WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN never attended the University. DONOVAN, at the 85th Annual Commencement 6/2/29 at Notre Dame, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Records, Prefect of Discipline, Notre Dame credit and criminal, South Bend, Indiana, negative.

**RUC**

**REFERENCE:** Bureau teletype dated June 15, 1953.

**DETAILS:**
At South Bend, Indiana

Mr. S. STACHKO, Registrar, Academic Affairs Office, Notre Dame University, advised after searching their active and inactive records, bulletins, and micro-film, that they had no record of WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN attending the University. The University Bulletins did reflect, however, that WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN at the 85th Annual Commencement on June 2, 1929 at Notre Dame University did receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. The citation read as follows:

"A lawyer and soldier, who has served his country well in high civil position and with rare international distinction in the World War as leader of the famous 69th Regiment. - Colonel WILLIAM J. DONOVAN of Buffalo, New York."

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**77-5876-23**

**JUL 25 1953**

**24**
IP
77-2569

Mrs. FALLACOVIC advised there would be no additional available information concerning WILLIAM J. DONOVAN.

Miss DORITA SCHLACIARRE, Secretary, Prefect of Discipline's Office, Notre Dame University, advised they had no record on WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN.

JAMES ARMSTRONG, Secretary, Alumni Association, Notre Dame University, advised there would be no additional available information concerning WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN at Notre Dame. He added that Reverend CHARLES O'DONNELL was the president of Notre Dame during this period and is now deceased. He could recall no one at the University that could furnish any pertinent information concerning DONOVAN.

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

MRS. BLANCHE MONTIE, Clerk, Credit Bureau of South Bend, 510 National Bank Building, advised they had no information on the name of WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN.

MR. JOHN CONNOLLY, Clerk, Records Section, Notre Dame Police Department, advised they had no information of WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN.
WA 3 FROM BA 6-24-53 6-05 PM
DIRECTOR, FBI
URGENT
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBUTEL TODAY. REPORT OF SA. THOMAS L.
LAMB, JR., IN CAPTIONED MATTER, SUBMITTED JUNE TWENTY-TWO LAST.

ALDEN
END

ACK PLS

BA R 3 WA NB

77-58206-24

RECORDED-92
WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 17 24 10-22P
DIRECTOR ....URGENT....

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, AKA SI. ATTENTION -- INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SI SECTION. RE WFO TEL TO NY JUNE TWENTY TWO, FIFTY THREE. LETTERS BEING FURNISHED BUREAU CONTAINING INFO CONCERNING APPOINTEE. DUE TO NATURE OF MATERIAL NOT BEING INCLUDED IN DETAILS OF REPORT. WILLIAM D. MITCHELL ADVISED APPOINTEE HAS DETESTED HIM SINCE HERBERT HOOVER APPOINTED MITCHELL AS IN NINETEEN TWENTY EIGHT. APPOINTEE BELIEVED THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AG BUT MITCHELL QUOTE UNDERCUT UNQUOTE HIM TO GET JOB. MITCHELL STATES THIS WAS UNTRUE AS HE DID NOT DESIRE POSITION. HOWEVER, MITCHELL CONSIDERS APPOINTEE VERY CAPABLE AND BRILLIANT AND KNOWS OF NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD NOT HAVE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT POSITION, WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND. STATES, HOWEVER, THAT FRANK G. REICHE, NOW A PRACTICING ATTORNEY IN BUFFALO AND APPOINTEE'S FIRST LAW PARTNER, WAS INDICTED BY FGJ IN WASHINGTON DURING LATE NINETEEN TWENTIES AS A RESULT OF A WORTHLESS BOND DEAL. APPOINTEE ASKED MITCHELL TO INTERVENE AND HAVE INDICTMENT QUASHED. MITCHELL WROTE A LETTER TO FGJ POINTING OUT SPOTLESS CHARACTER AND REPUTATION OF REICHE. AS A RESULT NO COURT ACTION END PAGE ONE
TAKEN AGAINST REICHEL. HOWEVER, IN NINETEEN THIRTY ONE OR THIRTY TWO, REICHEL RE-INDICTED AND ONCE AGAIN THE APPOINTEE ASKED MITCHELL TO INTERVENE. DONOVAN AT THIS TIME WAS CAMPAIGNING FOR GOVERNOR OF NY. MITCHELL REFUSED, TELLING APPOINTEE TO LET COURT ACTION TAKE ITS COURSE. REICHEL TRIED AND ACQUITTED. MITCHELL STATES CRIMINAL DIVISION, D OF J, WOULD HAVE RECORDS OF THIS COURT ACTION IF NECESSARY FOR REVIEW. JUDGE LAWRENCE, U.S. CUSTOMS COURT, NYC, RECOMMENDS APPOINTEE HIGHLY AS MAN OF HIGH CHARACTER, REPUTATION AND LOYALTY. HIS ASSOCIATION, HOWEVER, WAS NOT A CLOSE ONE. ATTEMPTING TO INTERVIEW FORMER PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER THIS DATE. REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

BOARDMAN

HOLD
AIR-TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

FBI BUFFALO 6-24-53 5-10 PM EDT

DIRECTOR

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. BUDGED JUNE TWENTYTWO LAST. RE BU RADIOGRAM THIS DATE. REPORT SA LEO J. KENNEDY SUBMITTED JUNE TWENTY LAST.

BOSWELL

END

RTC: MKC
62-1041

AIR MAIL

RECEIVED 92 77-58706-26

Approved: H.C.B. Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per
WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK 15 24 10-19

DIRECTOR

URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, AKA, SI. ATTENTION -- INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SI SECTION. REURTCEL JUNE TWENTY THREE, FIFTY THREE. REPORT OF SA THOMAS J. LARDNER SUBMITTED JUNE NINETEEN LAST. CASE REOPENED AS RESULT OF JUNE TWENTY TWO WFO TEL. TELETYPE SUMMARY BEING SUBMITTED REFERENCE THIS TEL. REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

RECORDED-92 77-58706-27

BOARDMAN
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DATE WHEN MADE
6/24/53

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE
6/23/53

REPORT MADE BY
JESSE W. SYME

CHARACTER OF CASE
SPECIAL INQUIRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
O. HUGH BRAESE comments favorably concerning DONOVAN and recommends him as of good character and loyal to the United States.


DETAILS: ACQUAINTANCE

MR. O. HUGH BRAESE, President, American Train Dispatchers Association, 101 East Huron Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, advised that in 1935 he served for three months on a National Mediation Board with DONOVAN. During this time he sat daily at hearings with DONOVAN, but had no contact with him outside of working hours. MR. BRAESE stated that DONOVAN impressed him as a man of excellent character, fair minded, honest and an extremely loyal and patriotic American citizen. MR. BRAESE recommended DONOVAN for employment in a position of trust.

- RUC -
AIRTEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, CHICAGO

DIRECTOR, FBI

WILLIAM B. ORSON, ST. PETERSBURG, FL

THOMAS J. O'Brien, POST OFFICE, JESSE N. SMITH, CO., JUSTICE DEPARTMENT,

WATERFORD.

77-58706-29

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent: [Signature]

Per: [Signature]
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, JR., WHO INVESTIGATION TO DATE HAS FAILED TO
IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH DONOVAN SINCE NINETEEN
FORTY OTHER THAN ALLEN DULLES, PRESENT CIA DIRECTOR. DULLES IN OSS DURING
SAME PERIOD AS DONOVAN; BUREAU MAY DESIRE TO INTERVIEW DULLES THROUGH
LIAISON CHANNELS. IDENTITY OF THOSE WHO WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH
DONOVAN AS OBTAINED FROM DULLES, SHOULD BE FURNISHED INTERESTED OFFICES
SO THAT THEY MAY BE INTERVIEWED.
WASH 14 FROM NEW YORK 25 11-02 PM

DIRECTOR URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, AKA, SI. ATTN- INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SI SECTION. HERBERT HOOVER RECOMMENDS MOST HIGHLY. KNOWS NONE OF CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING INDICTMENTS RETURNED AGAINST RUTCHLE OR APPOINTER'S INTERVENTION IN AFFAIR. REPORT BEING EXPEDITED.

BOARDMAN

HLD

77-58706-31

27 JUL 22 1899

RECORDED-99
# Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Title:** William Joseph Donovan

**Synopsis of Facts:**

**Reference:** WFO teletype dated 6-15-53

**Details:** At St. Louis, Missouri:
A review of the personnel records, Federal Records Center, General Services Administration, for William J. Donovan indicates that he 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 General. He was employed as Assistant to the Attorney General March 23, 1925 at Washington, D.C. This employment was terminated March 2, 1929 as Assistant to the Attorney General by reason of his resignation.

(No record of civilian employment for William Joseph Donovan with the Office of Coordinator of Information could be located).

The date and place of birth were shown as - no date or place indicated.

---

**Approved and Forwarded:**

**Copy of this Report:**
- Bureau (AMSD)
- St. Louis (77-12216)
  - 2

**Property of FBI:** This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.
TO:  Mr. A. W. Ross

FROM:  V. P. Keary

SUBJECT:  WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Reference is made to Washington Field Office teletype dated June 25, 1953, wherein it was suggested that Allen Dulles of the CIA be interviewed concerning the captioned individual.  This interview was conducted by Liaison Agent Papich on June 26, 1953.

Dulles advised that he was not in possession of any derogatory information concerning the morals and character of Donovan.  He stated that he was closely associated with Donovan during World War II and he found him to be a very aggressive, industrious, and capable individual.  Dulles admitted that from time to time he has had differences of opinion with Donovan but as far as he was concerned, these differences certainly would not have any bearing in connection with any position the Government might have in mind for him.  He emphasized that Donovan was intensely patriotic and there was no doubt in his mind concerning Donovan's absolute loyalty to the U. S. Government.

Dulles stated that it was his understanding that Donovan was being considered for the position of U. S. Ambassador to Thailand.  Dulles personally feels that Donovan has the necessary background, intelligence, and ability to handle the job in a very capable manner.

With regard to individuals who have known Donovan over the years, Dulles suggested the following persons, pointing out that he was suggesting these names because he felt they would give very objective accounts concerning Donovan.

Charles Steele Cheston
Residence:  Lothian Farm, Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania

Robert Jackson
Supreme Court Justice, Washington, D. C.

General John McGruder, retired
Residence:  Thomas Jefferson Street (name unknown)
Washington, D. C.

ACTION:  The above information is being referred to the Special Inqury Section of the Investigative Division.
F.B.I. RADIOGRAM

DECODED COPY

FROM ALBANY 6-26-53 NR 251600 12:59 PM

DIRECTOR DEFERRED

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. RE BUREAU RADIOGRAM JUNE 23 LAST. REPORT SUBMITTED JUNE 19 LAST BY SA JAMES P. HENDRICK.

RECEIVED: 6-26-53 1:11 PM DR

2 JUL 22 1055

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NAME OF PERSON

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS


REFERENCE: Bureau teletypes dated June 15, and June 23, 1953.
New York teletype dated June 17, 1953
St. Louis teletype dated June 19, and June 22, 1953.
DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

EMPLOYMENT:

United States Attorney, Western District of New York

The Thirtieth Edition of the "Register of the Department of Justice and the Courts of the United States", an official publication compiled under the direction of the Attorney General and released April 25, 1922, reflects WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was appointed United States Attorney, Western District of New York, Buffalo, on February 7, 1922.

Assistant to the Attorney General, Washington, D. C.

The Thirty-first edition of the above publication, released September 1, 1926, reflects WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was appointed Assistant to the Attorney General, Washington, D. C., on August 11, 1924. The Senate confirmed the appointment on March 18, 1925. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN was charged with the enforcement of the Anti-Trust laws. The Thirty-fourth edition of the "Register" (1927) lists JOHN LORD O'HRIAN as the Assistant to the Attorney General charged with the enforcement of Anti-Trust laws. His appointment was confirmed on June 3, 1929.

WILLIAM D. MITCHELL, whose current address is 20 Exchange Place, New York City, and CHARLES D. LAWRENCE, now Judge of the United States Customs Court, New York City, served as Solicitor General and Assistant Attorney General respectively during this period.

Miss ANNA C. DENNEAN, Department of Justice, was unable to locate any personnel files reflecting the above and was of the opinion same would have been forwarded to the Federal Records Center, St. Louis.

Judge ALEXANDER HOLTZOFF, United States District Court, District of Columbia, informed SA JAMES D. HUPPERT that he served in the Department of Justice between 1924
and 1945. Judge HOLTZOFF recalled he was a Special Assistant to the Attorney General in 1924 when Attorney General HARLAN F. STONE brought DONOVAN into the Department. DONOVAN had been a student under STONE at Columbia University. DONOVAN was made Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Anti-Trust Division not too long after coming to the Department.

In commenting that DONOVAN was and still is a very dynamic person possessed of an abundance of well-controlled and well directed energy, Judge HOLTZOFF noted DONOVAN has a fine mind and is known as a very capable organizer. Judge HOLTZOFF related he has followed DONOVAN'S career and is of the opinion that DONOVAN is a very outstanding American citizen. There is not the slightest doubt as to DONOVAN'S loyalty or patriotism. Judge HOLTZOFF summed up his comments by stating he would highly recommend DONOVAN for any position for which the United States Government might consider him.

Mr. UGO CARUSI, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the United States, maintains his offices at No. 1025 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 802. CARUSI advised SA JAMES D. HUFFERT he was with the Justice Department between 1925 and 1945. He recalled DONOVAN was with the Department between 1924 and 1929. Originally he was assigned to the Criminal Division but later was appointed Assistant Attorney General to head the Anti-Trust Division. This was under Attorney General SARGENT. CARUSI, at this time, was Attorney General SARGENT'S personal secretary, and, for this reason, he states he was in a good position to observe what type of person DONOVAN was.

CARUSI states DONOVAN impressed everyone in those days as being a "live wire". He was unusually energetic and showed remarkably good judgment in administering the affairs of his Division. He was never, to MR. CARUSI'S knowledge, swayed by the elements of personal friendships and would, in fact, "bend over backwards" to place performance of duty before any other consideration. He gained the reputation of being an extremely capable
individual and was greatly admired by all those who knew him. Based upon his contact and knowledge of DONOVAN, Mr. CARUSI stated he recommended him wholeheartedly as a 100% American and completely suited for any position of trust in which the government might desire to use him.

Mr. CARUSI recalled that in 1929 President HERBERT HOOVER knew DONOVAN well and held him in high esteem. Mr. CARUSI believes President HOOVER strongly considered appointing DONOVAN as Attorney General in 1929.

Attorney RUSSELL HARDY, 1820 Jefferson Place, N.W., advised SA JAMES D. HUPPERT he was in the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice between 1914 and 1938. He recalled DONOVAN was first assigned to the Criminal Division when coming into the Department of Justice at Washington, D.C. in 1924, but later became Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Anti-Trust Division. HARDY noted he was DONOVAN'S immediate assistant during the last three years of DONOVAN'S stay in the Anti-Trust Division. He has had only slight business contact with DONOVAN since DONOVAN left the Department.

Mr. HARDY advised he has the highest possible opinion of DONOVAN. Describing him as a man of extraordinary ability, HARDY emphasizes that DONOVAN was the best administrator in the Anti-Trust Division during the time HARDY was employed there. DONOVAN'S executive ability was almost beyond compare and his other qualifications were on a very high level. HARDY said that DONOVAN was totally devoid of "bureaucratic jealousy" and never stood in the way of those employed under him. Neither did he try to gain credit which belonged to others. He thus developed strong loyalties and personal affection for himself among those in his Division, all of which was completely deserved.

Mr. HARDY was positive there is no one more loyal to this country than DONOVAN and he said DONOVAN will distinguish himself in any position to which he might be appointed.

Attorney NORMAN J. MORRISSON, 1632 K Street, N.W., advised SA JAMES D. HUPPERT he was in the Department of Justice,
Tax Prohibition Division, between 1926 and 1934. He stated he was acquainted with DONOVAN while DONOVAN was head of the Anti-Trust Division but has had no intimate professional contact with him. MORRISSON recalled DONOVAN had been United States Attorney in Buffalo, New York, before joining the Department in Washington, D.C., and was one of the best in the country. MORRISSON stated he has never heard anything unfavorable with regard to DONOVAN's government service and his reputation was of the highest caliber. MORRISSON stated that from his knowledge of DONOVAN's subsequent activity, after leaving the Department, he feels DONOVAN is a very good American and is well qualified to fill a position of trust with the federal government.

United States Delegation to Customs Regulations Conference Between United States and Canada, 1923.

The 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who" indicates DONOVAN was a member of the United States Delegation to the Customs Regulations Conference Between United States and Canada in 1923.

AUDREY EDMUNDS, Personnel Office, Bureau of Customs, was unable to locate any specific official record of these conferences. She noted there is no index to their files for the 1902-30 period and any information concerning the conferences would be filed in the general activity files. Miss EDMUNDS made appropriate inquiry among others in the Bureau without locating anyone who recalled the conferences.

JOSEPH O'DONNELL, a File Searcher in the Bureau of Customs, Section of National Archives, was also unable to locate any records.

The "Annual Report of the Secretary of Treasury" for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, has one section devoted to "Customs Relations with Canada", under the caption "Customs Service". A pertinent reference reads "Conferences held between officers of the Department and Canadian customs authorities during the year resulted in mutual benefit and the general facilitation of the customs business between the two countries".
United States Commissioner and Chairman, Rio Grande River Compact Commission.

In the late 1920's, according to the official records now maintained at National Archives, the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas resolved to conclude a compact which would remove all causes of controversy among these states and between citizens of one and citizens of another over the use of Rio Grande waters above Fort Quitman, Texas. To this end the respective governors named commissioners: Delph E. Carpenter (Colorado), Francis C. Wilson (New Mexico), and T. H. McGregor (Texas). On December 5, 1926, William J. Donovan was appointed by President Calvin Coolidge to act as Commissioner representing the United States in the matter. He journeyed to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and on December 19, 1928, at the original three-day meeting, 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.

United States Representative and Chairman, Colorado River Compact Commission

Again, according to official records maintained at National Archives, Donovan 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.

Footnotes appearing in House Document #747, a publication of the 80th Congress, 2nd Session, entitled "The Hoover Dam Documents" by Ray Lyman Wilbur and Northcutt Ely, 1948, disclose a formal conference was held at Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 11 - March 5, 1929, between the representatives of the "lower-basin" states.

Colonel William J. Donovan, as representative of the Federal Government, presided. Representatives of the "upper-basin" states were attached as observers. During the period, April-July 1929, informal conferences between
CALIFORNIA and ARIZONA were held at Los Angeles. Representatives of ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH and WYOMING met on August 28, 1929, at Salt Lake City with primary reference to power matters.

On January 21, 1930, the "lower basin" commissioners resumed formal conferences at Reno, Nevada, under the Chairmanship of DONOVAN. At the suggestion of the Secretary of the Interior, advisors were added by each State; Senator CARL HAYDEN for Arizona, Senator PITTMAN and THOMAS COLE for Nevada, and W. J. CARR for California. Having recessed at Reno, the Commission met at Phoenix, February 6-9, 1930, but failed to reach an agreement.

Reference to a report of WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, Federal Representative in Tri-State negotiations, to Secretary of the Interior WILBUR dated February 14, 1930, is made in one footnote but appropriate searches by Bureau of Reclamation Chief File Room Clerk, HUGO DINNER, Department of Interior Chief File Room Clerk, MERLE OWENS, National Archive searchers, CHARLES E. DEWING and JULIA CARROLL, and Department of State file searchers, CHARLES PATTERSON and ALICE COLLINS, failed to locate this report.

It is noted the Colorado River Compact became an actuality in November 1922 and the "Boulder Canyon Project Act" was an outgrowth of it.

GUY W. NUMBERS, head of the Personnel Section, Department of Interior, was unable to locate any record of DONOVAN having been a Department employee.

T. W. MEBNELL, Assistant to Commissioner - Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, made available House Document #717 referred to above. He could add no further pertinent information.

National Mediation Board

The "Second Annual Report of the National Mediation Board for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1936" reflects arbitration hearings began August 12, 1935, in the dispute between the American Train Dispatchers' Association and the Boston and Maine Railroad over the question "Shall train directors handle centralized traffic control system from AR tower or shall such system be handled by train dispatchers?"
Colonel WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, New York attorney, was the
'Clerical member' of the Board which was also made up of
S. E. MILLER, Assistant General Manager, Boston and Maine
Road, and O. H. DRAKE, Vice-President, American Train
Dispatchers' Association. The arbitration board decided the
centralized traffic control system from the AR tower would
be handled by the train dispatchers. The award was made on
November 15, 1935, and was filed in the Office of the Clerk
United States District Court for the District of
Massachusetts.

EUGENE C. THOMPSON, Secretary, National Mediation
Board, was unable to furnish further pertinent information.

Unofficial Observer for Secretary of the Navy, Great Britain,
July - August 1940; South East Europe, December 1940 - March
1941.

The 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who" indicates DONOVAN
was an official observer for the Secretary of the Navy in
Great Britain during July and August 1940, and in south east
Europe, December 1940 - March 1941.

Mr. J. S. DAVITT, Administrative Officer, Adminis-
trative Office of the Navy Department, advised SA DESMOND J.
BRIDGES he was unable to locate any record of this among Naval
files. Mr. DAVITT also made an appropriate inquiry among
officials of the Department of Navy without locating anyone
who specifically recalled or was closely associated with
DONOVAN during this period.

Files of the Department of State contain a telegram
dated July 11, 1940, directed by the Department of State to
the Ambassador at London informing him that Colonel KNOX (then
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. DONOVAN intended
to depart New York via clipper on July 14, and was to report
to the Ambassador upon arrival in London.

Department of State files also contain a telegram
dated November 30, 1940, directed by the Department to the
American Legation at Lisbon, Portugal, informing the Legation
Files of the Special Investigations Squad Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C., contain a notation that the "Washington Daily News" carried a series of articles in August 1940 on "Nazi Germany Fifth Column Activities in England". The authors of this series were Colonel William J. Donovan and Edgar Ansel Mowrer, veteran foreign correspondent. The articles reported Colonel Donovan had gone to London at the request of Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, for the purpose of developing information regarding fifth column activities.

In a foreword to this series, Secretary Knox wrote: "These two men, on the behalf of the United States, made the most thoroughgoing survey of German fifth column methods used in weakening resistance of possible enemies and undermining the morale of countries they proposed to attack. The results ... are designed to make Americans fully conscious of methods used by totalitarian powers, so that if or when such methods are used here they will instantly be recognized for what they are and their effect nullified."

No other pertinent information was located in these Special Investigations Squad files by SA Desmond J. Bridges.

Coordinator of Information

According to the "United States Government Organizational Manual, 1952-53", referred to previously, the Coordinator of Information was established by Presidential order dated July 11, 1941, to collect, analyze and correlate...
information and data bearing on national security. This data was to be made available to the President and such other officials as determined by him. Related supplementary activities were also to be performed. Exclusive of foreign information activities, the unit was transferred by military order of June 13, 1942, to the jurisdiction of the Joint United States Chiefs of Staff and designated the Office of Strategic Services.

Office of Strategic Services

Subsequent to its redesignation, the functions of Office of Strategic Services were modified by Executive Order 9312, March 9, 1943, so that the agency was responsible for the collection and analysis of such strategic information as required by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for military operations and planning. The agency was also responsible for conducting special operations not assigned other government agencies. Executive Order 9621 of September 20, 1945, provided for the termination of the Office of Strategic Services effective October 1, 1945, and for the distribution of its functions to the Department of State and the War Department.

Contact officer in the Central Intelligence Agency, advised SA ROBERT J. MCKINNAN that Central Intelligence Agency personnel records reflect DONOVAN was appointed Coordinator of Information by President ROOSEVELT on July 7, 1941. On April 2, 1943, while Director of 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 Office of Strategic Services. At that time he held the rank of Major General. It was stated nothing of an unfavorable nature was contained in the file.

Further stated he was unable to advise the identity of anyone who might have been closely associated with DONOVAN during this period other than ALLEN DULLES, present Central Intelligence Agency Director.

Military Service

In reviewing that portion of DONOVAN'S military file which is located at the Pentagon, SE JOHN J. LANDERS noted a "Statement of Service" certified by the Adjutant.
General on July 15, 1911, which reflects DONOVAN served as an enlisted man in the New York National Guard between October 1911 and October 15, 1912. He attained the rank of Sergeant. On October 17, 1912, he was commissioned a Captain in the New York National Guard and subsequently mustered into Federal Service at Governor's Island, New York, on July 19, 1916, for duty on the Mexican border.

A brief resume of DONOVAN'S career, drawn up in November 1926, in connection with his position as Assistant Attorney General, reflects he was a Captain in Troop I, First Cavalry, New York National Guard, when mustered into Federal Service. After the mustering he commanded the Third Squadron at 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.

DONOVAN 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 National Guard. In August 1917, he was assigned to the 69th New York Infantry. This unit later became the 165th Infantry, 42nd Division. At Camp Miller DONOVAN was placed in command of the 1st Battalion as the unit prepared for foreign service and departure from the United States.

Commanding his 1st Battalion, DONOVAN entered the front lines in February 1918, serving in defense of the Lunéville sector (Lorraine); Baccarat sector (Lorraine); Esperance Sotain sector (Champagne); Champagne-Marne Offensive; Aisne-Marne Offensive; St. Mihiel Offensive; Essey - Pannes sector (Lorraine); and Meuse Argonne sector until severely wounded on October 15, 1918, and evacuated to a hospital. DONOVAN had also been wounded on July 29, 1918, but was not treated in a hospital until late August 1918.

DONOVAN was subsequently promoted to Colonel, Infantry, on March 9, 1919, and placed in command of a regiment stationed with the American Expeditionary Forces, Germany. He served as Inspector and instructor in the Provost Marshal General's Department, Paris; returned to the United States on April 21, 1919, and was demobilized at Hoboken, New Jersey on May 22, 1919.
DONOVAN was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty near Landres and St. George, France, October 14-15, 1918.

For extraordinary heroism in action, July 28-31, 1918, DONOVAN was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He led his Battalion across the River Ourcq and captured important enemy strongholds near Villers-sur Père, France, on July 28-31, 1918. In advance of his Division for four days under shell and machine gun fire from the enemy who were on three sides of him, he repeatedly and persistently counter-attacked and was wounded twice. His coolness, courage and efficient leadership rendered possible the maintenance of the position.

The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded DONOVAN for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service. As Battalion Commander, 165th Infantry during operations in the Baccarat sector, July 28-31, 1918, he demonstrated high professional attainments and marked ability. He displayed conspicuous energy and efficient leadership in advance of his Battalion across the OURCQ River. In October 1918, as a Lieutenant Colonel he commanded the same regiment with marked success in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. From January 1, 1919, to March 3, 1919, as Inspector-Instructor, Provost Marshal General's Department, he rendered service of great value to the A.E.F.

The brief prepared notes DONOVAN is the only member of the Army awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Medal and Distinguished Service Cross - the Nation's three highest awards - for service performed during World War I.

DONOVAN accepted appointment as a Colonel, Infantry, Officers Reserve Corps on May 14, 1921, according to official records and was transferred to Cavalry, O.R.C., on February 4, 1922.

Official records further reflect DONOVAN, Army, Serial Number 0-102, 383, became a Brigadier General on March 24, 1913, and was recalled to active duty on April 24, 1943, as Director, Office of Strategic Services. On December 7, 1944, he was promoted to Major General, the rank he held upon his
release from active duty.

DONOVAN is now carried on the Army rolls as a Major General, Honorary Reserve.

DONOVAN, according to the military records, has been awarded:

- Medal of Honor
- Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
- Order of Crown - Italy
- Italian War Cross
- Knight Commander, Order of J.K.B.E. - Britain
- Legion of Honor, Degree of Commander - France
- Grand Officer, Order of Leopold with Palm - Belgium
- Croix de Guerre, 1914 with Palm
- French Croix de Guerre with Star (W.W.I)
- French Croix de Guerre with Palm (W.W.I)
- Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster
- Grand Cross - Crown of Italy
- Commander Cross with Star, J. J. Royal Order of Saint Olav - Norway
- Special Collar Order Yun Hui - China
- Czechoslovakian War Cross

No further pertinent information was noted by SE JOHN J. LANDERS.

Passport Data

In reviewing appropriate records at the Passport Office, Department of State, SA JAMES D. HUPPERT noted numerous passports have been issued DONOVAN. Pertinent data regarding that is set forth below.
<table>
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<th>PASSPORT NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE ISSUED</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
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<td>May 9, 1928</td>
<td>Official business, Department of Justice</td>
<td>France, Holland, and Germany</td>
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<td>June 25, 1934</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<td>123942 (renewed)</td>
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<td>543075</td>
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<td>July 11, 1940</td>
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<td>(Lost or stolen in Sofia Bulgaria, January 22, 1941)</td>
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<td>Substitute for above</td>
<td>January 24, 1941</td>
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<td>Special 16357</td>
<td>June 8, 1942</td>
<td>Official business, Office of the Coordinator of Information. (Director, Office of Strategic Services)</td>
<td>British Isles</td>
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<td>Above renewed</td>
<td>March 30, 1944</td>
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<td>Diplomatic No. 526</td>
<td>June 22, 1945</td>
<td>As Associate Chief of Counsel for Prosecution of War Crimes and as Director, Office of Strategic Services</td>
<td>Various European and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics</td>
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<td>October 16, 1946</td>
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<td>Legal Business</td>
<td>Europe</td>
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<td>May 18, 1950</td>
<td>(Not specified)</td>
<td>(Not specified)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>322968</td>
<td>July 10, 1950</td>
<td>Business and pleasure</td>
<td>England, France, Germany, Belgium and Italy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(The above passport was accompanied by a military permit #17636, issued by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It granted DONOVAN permission to enter the United States Zone of Germany and Austria for the purpose of visiting General CLAY. Issued June 10, 1947, it expired August 10, 1947.)
CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

SE JAMES A. ROBERTS determined there is no record of WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN in the files of the Washington, D.C. Credit Bureau.

No arrest record of WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN was located in the files of the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C., by SE EDMUND J. FIDEN.

SE WALTER JAMES TULSON determined there is no record of DONOVAN in the files of the United States Park Police, Washington, D.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

At the Investigations Division, Civil Service Commission, SA FRANK P. HOLMAN was advised there is no record of WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN in their indices.

Contact Officer [redacted] advised SA ROBERT J. MCKENNAN there is no derogatory information concerning WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN in the Security Files, Central Intelligence Agency.

SE HILBERT ARPS determined there is no additional pertinent information in the files of the Security Division, Department of State.

The 1952-1953 edition of "Who's Who in America" reflects DONOVAN was married to MURIEL RUIDSEY on July 14, 1914. Two children, DAVID RUIDSEY DONOVAN and PATRICIA DONOVAN (now deceased) were born to this union.
WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE:

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.:

Will report results of the House Committee on Un-American Activities agency check.

Will report results of OKI check.

Will report result of file reviews, principally HCUA, based upon New York teletype dated June 18, 1953.

Will contact EDGAR ANSEL ELLMSER, 3301 Garfield Street, N. W., if he is in this country at this time for the purpose of determining nature of DONOVAN's mission for Secretary of the Navy KNOX, now deceased, in 1940-41, and any comment he may have regarding DONOVAN.
Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, ST. LOUIS 6-30-53 HMA: mbs
DIRECTOR, FBI
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. REBU RADIOGRAM DATED JUNE TWENTYTHREE, LAST.
RUC REPORT OF SA JAMES E. REILLY SUBMITTED JUNE TWENTYFIVE, LAST.
RUC.

THORNTON

END
77-12216

AIR-TEL

Approved:
Special Agent-in Charge

Sent M Per
WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK IN 15 11-16P
DIRECTOR ___ U R G E N T ___

ATTENTION - INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION.
WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, AKA, SI. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO DESIRE
THEIR IDENTITIES KEPT CONFIDENTIAL FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION. [Redacted]

ADvised his experiences with appointee have never been favorable.
Appointee has always been quote soft and mushy unquote in his
TREATMENT OF COMMUNISTS AND COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF ORGANIZATIONS
UNDER HIS CONTROL. [Redacted] Stated that appointee would never take a
FIRM STAND AGAINST COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT, UNIONS, OR THE UN.
He considers appointee an quote anti anti communist unquote.
[Redacted] Stated that his comments were not based on specific incidents
but on general impression and observation.
[Redacted] Stated that he made inquiry re appointee for own use.

Appointee's law firm represents a public relations firm, Allied
Syndicate, whose clients are Frank Costello, John L. Lewis, and
Lauchlin Currie. The appointee was alleged to have headed a recent
END PAGE ONE

PUBLIC RECORDS 58106 37
RECORDED 92
COMMITTEE WHICH WAS TO ASK PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TO OUST SENATOR MC CARTHY. THE APPOINTEE'S LAW FIRM ALSO WAS ALLEGED TO REPRESENT THE CHINESE GENERALS WHO ABSCOUNDED WITH MILLIONS OF NATIONALIST CHINA'S FUNDS. CONSIDERS APPOINTEE A QUOTE BUBBLEHEAD UNQUOTE, WHO NEVER GOT TOUGH WITH COMMUNISTS IN OSS. BOTH INDIVIDUALS WOULD NOT RECOMMEND. REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

BOARDMAN

HOLD
NEW YORK 10 FROM WASH DC 30 7-00 PM

SAC URGENT

WILLIAM JOSEPH DONOVAN, SI. ADVISE DATE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

SUBMITTED AND IDENTITY OF REPORTING AGENT.

HOOVER

WFO ADVISED

END

WA R 10 NY TM

TU DISC
This reference is a letter dated 5/12/40, Dallas, Texas, signed, "A Disgruntled Stockholder". This letter stated that the innocent stockholder could do nothing about it when the federal government knew what was going on and did not take adequate steps to correct the condition. This letter continued that the amount of money paid William J. Donovan and Irving Trust Company totaled more than one million dollars. Enclosed with this letter was a document pertaining to the amount of fees paid to the receiver and trustee, together with other interested parties in the Radio - Keith - Orpheum Corporation Bankrupt Case.

62-108-3076

(76)

On 6/12/40,.allowed a Bureau Agent to examine the credit file of Tophen and Farley entitled, "Transfers from German Estates to American Beneficiaries." On 3/25/30 of the above credit file under the heading "Donovan, Leisure, Newton and Lombard", it was stated that both Mr. Tophen and Mr. Farley were introduced to the German consulate by Col. Donovan. Col. Donovan was identified as Col. William J. Donovan, former Assistant Attorney General under former Attorney General John Sargent, with law offices at 2 W. 11 St., NYC.

NY Rpt., 6/10/40
Re: German Funds;
Miscellaneous, Information concerning
65-7237-155 pg. 16
(94)
ST 65-7267-156
(94)
This reference is a letter dated 8/6/40 from William J. Donovan, 2 Wall St., NYC, enclosing a letter which he had received from Dr. Gerhardt Alois Westrick, Waldorf - Astoria Hotel, NYC, concerning pro-German allegations which had been made against Dr. Westrick. Letter of acknowledgment sent to Col. Donovan 6/22/40.

On 8/13/40 the Publication Section Mailing List contained a change of address for Col. William J. Donovan from 41 Broad St., NYC, to 2 Wall St., NYC.
On 8/19/40 Mr. James Allen of the Department of Justice called regarding a series of five articles prepared by Col. William J. Donovan at the request of Secretary of War Knox which were to appear in the Washington "News" concerning Fifth Column activities. Mr. Allen felt that a sixth article should be written to explain the part the Department of Justice took in combating Fifth Column activities.

Memo to Director from
Mr. Tomp, 8/19/40
No caption given
94-8-64-31
(97)

The Washington "Daily News" for 8/20/40 carried an article entitled "Fifth Column Dangers Traitor's Vital Factor in Many Nazi Victories" which was the second of four articles made public by Navy Secretary 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.

61-7590-4
(87)