



March 27, 2024

MR. JOHN R. GREENEWALD JR.
SUITE 1203
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD
CASTAIC, CA 91384

FOIPA Request No.: 1352986-000
Subject: RESTON, JAMES BARRETT

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The FBI has completed its review of records subject to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) that are responsive to your request. The enclosed documents were reviewed under the FOIPA, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

Section 552		Section 552a	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)	
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<u>50 U.S.C. §3024(i)(1)</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2)	
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22 pages were reviewed and 22 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

This is the final release of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

Additional information about the FOIPA can be found at www.fbi.gov/foia. Should you have questions regarding your request, please feel free to contact foipaquestions@fbi.gov. Please reference the FOIPA Request number listed above in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at foipaquestions@fbi.gov. The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. G. Seidel".

Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosures

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Confidential Informant Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of confidential informant records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F) [5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F)] and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552a (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records would reveal confidential informant identities and information, expose law enforcement techniques, and endanger the life or physical safety of individuals. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches and Standard Search Policy.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems, such as the Central Records System (CRS), or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. The CRS is an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. The standard search policy is a search for main entity records in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include a search for reference entity records, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files.
 - a. *Main Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are the subjects or the focus of an investigation
 - b. *Reference Entity Records*- created for individuals or non-individuals who are associated with a case but are not known subjects or the focus of an investigation
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Foreseeable Harm Standard.** As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law (5 United States Code, Section 552(a)(8)(A)(i)). The FBI considers this foreseeable harm standard in the processing of its requests.
- (iv) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

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~~EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC
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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 03-18-2024 BY [redacted]~~

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

Date: June 3, 1958

FROM : M. A. Jones

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INITIALS [redacted]

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Limited Circulation
Review Cards
See Top
Rosen
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Winterrowd
Tele. Room
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Gandy

SUBJECT: JAMES BARRETT RESTON OF "THE NEW YORK TIMES"

SYNOPSIS:

The Director instructed that memo be prepared on Reston. Attached is summary memo dated March 11, 1958, from Mr. Ladd to Director regarding Reston. Information subsequent to March, 1958, reflects Reston well known to highly placed Government officials and has had contacts with Soviet Embassy officials. The News Agency reportedly has considered columns by Reston to reliably reflect administration policy of President Eisenhower, and "Tase" feels Reston's reports come from sources very close to inner sanctum of White House. Whittaker Chambers wrote in "Witness" that when Reston was asked by John Foster Dulles for his opinion of Alger Hiss as possible candidate for President of Carnegie Endowment, Reston stated Hiss would be very good choice. In November, 1958, Reston wrote, "There is some reason to believe that...the F.B.I. checked Mr. (Harry Dexter) White's telephones and, for a period of time during the war, even opened his mail." Following Director's testimony in White case, Reston wrote article describing Director's testimony as "brilliant and extraordinary performance." Reston contacted you in November, 1958, to discuss problems in his mind growing out of White case. You told him we could not help, and Director noted, "Properly handled. This fellow has slanted all his articles against us and never made any effort to get the facts. In January, 1954, Reston contacted Robert Oppenheimer; and Corbin Allerdice of Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, advised that AEC Chairman, Strauss, was contacted by Reston and advised that Reston had full story of drastic action being taken against Oppenheimer. Reportedly, Reston was working on information he had received from source he considered reliable, which information indicated notice had been sent Atomic Energy installations that Oppenheimer had been denied classified information because of pending review of his case. Oppenheimer's attorney conferred with Reston in Spain, 1954, regarding documents which had been furnished Reston and indicated desire that Reston be most careful in use of any material, particularly with reference to quotes from documents supplied him, since they would make it apparent that the documents had been supplied. Anonymous postcard received at Bureau dated April 13, 1954, reflected writer's "hunch" that Reston had "ghosted" life story of Oppenheimer which appeared in New York Times

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Enclosure

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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

June 3, 1955

Reston obtained advance copy of Yalta documents from Carl W. McCordle of State Department for New York Times after conferring with Dulles in March, 1955. Reston has been considered one of several possible suspects in Espionage - R/insurrection resulting from information received from [redacted] Article by Reston in August, 1954, concerning Soviet defector Yuri Rastvorov deals critically with CIA, and notes CIA's attempt to use information for political and psychological warfare projects. Request from G-2 for check of Reston's name handled in February, 1955, in connection with attendance at Army War College National Strategic Seminar. In April, 1955, you advised Mr. Tolson that Tom Naughten of Foreign Operations Administration had stated Harold Stassen believes he has Reston "pegged for being a New Dealer and one who is not pro-Russian, but would get great delight out of embarrassing the administration." Reportedly, New York Times of June 3, 1955, contains article by Reston relating to surveillances of Yugoslav United Nations delegates.

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RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

Reston is now writing Senator George's speeches, according to two reliable sources. LBN

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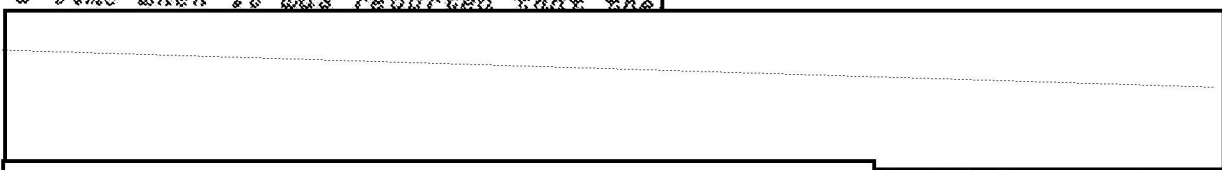
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DETAILS:

By routing slip on June 2, 1955, the Director instructed, "Let me have memo on Reston of New York Times. H."

INFORMATION IN BUFILES RE RESTON:

There is attached a summary memorandum concerning James Barret Reston of "The New York Times" from Mr. Ladd to the Director dated March 11, 1953. The attached memorandum was prepared in accordance with the Director's instructions at a time when it was reported that the



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Mr. Ladd's memorandum of March 11, 1953, further relates that a British professor had stated that the giving of a list of questions to Stalin for answers just before Christmas of 1952 was "journalistic bumbling" on the part of "The New York Times" diplomatic correspondent, James Reston. With reference to this matter, it is noted that the "Daily Worker" for April 2, 1953, contains a notice reflecting that the New York State Communist Party put out a folder featuring a picture of the late Joseph Stalin and the late President Roosevelt, together with Stalin's Christmas Eve reply to Reston. (100-3-4-7222), p. 2.

INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO MARCH, 1953:

"Who's Who" reflects that Reston has been in the Washington Bureau of "The New York Times" since 1941. References in Bufiles reflect that he has been known to highly placed Government officials, including Harold Stassen, Edward R. Steptinus, Jr., John Foster Dulles, and W. Averell Harriman.



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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

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June 3, 1955

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Additionally, the Washington Field Office advised in March, 1954, that it had been reported that Georgi N. Bolshakov, Chief of the Washington Bureau of "Tass," appeared to be more interested in cultivating the acquaintanceship and friendship of American correspondents and Government officials than in dispatching news articles to Moscow. Reportedly, Bolshakov openly stated that it was his ambition to be on friendly terms with several individuals, including Reston. Allegedly, he was striving to emulate these persons both in his manner and dress (100-183386-853)

With reference to "Tass," the Washington Field Office reported in April, 1953, that both the Washington and New York Bureaus of "Tass" reportedly considered columns of Reston's of "The New York Times" and those of Ferdinand Kuhn of the "Washington Post" as most reliably reflecting the administration policies of President Eisenhower. Allegedly, "Tass" regarded the reports of these two journalists on United States foreign policy as coming from sources very close to the inner sanctum of the White House; and Tass News Agency would take the word of these two men over that of any other journalist or group of journalists reporting on the same policy (100-183386-660)

RE ALGER HISS AND HARRY DEXTER WHITE:

It is to be noted that Reston's name appears in Whittaker Chambers' book, "Witness." Chambers notes that at the time of the Congressional inquiry concerning Alger Hiss, Reston handed him (Chambers) a note in which he asked if Chambers were the G. Grosley who wrote a book of poems in 1905. Chambers stated he answered merely that he was born in 1901 and was four years old in 1905. According to Chambers, Reston later accused him of refusing to answer his question. Chambers described

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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

June 3, 1955

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Reston as a person who, when asked by John Foster Dulles his opinion of Alger Hiss as a possible candidate for President of the Carnegie Endowment, had stated Hiss would be a very good choice. ("Witness," page 647-648) It is to be noted that Reston was interviewed in January, 1949, by Agents of the New York Office to ascertain if he had ever received any typewritten material from Hiss. Reston stated that Hiss had given him material for articles at verbal interviews, but he denied ever having received ~~typewritten or handwritten~~ correspondence from Hiss. [redacted]

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With reference to Harry Dexter White, an article in the November 13, 1953, edition of "The New York Times," by Reston, is captioned "All Lose in White Case - Brownell and Truman and Eisenhower and Congress and the U. S. Discredited." The article states, "There is some reason to believe that, after the testimony by Mr. Chambers and Miss Bentley against Mr. White, the F.B.I. checked Mr. White's telephones and, for a time during the war, even opened his mail." (101-4053-129)

Following the Director's testimony in the White case, Reston wrote an article which appeared in "The New York Times" captioned "Hoover Star at Hearing." The article states that the Director emerged from the hearings as the decisive witness and probably the most powerful figure on Capitol Hill. It describes the Director's testimony as "altogether, a brilliant and extraordinary performance." (94-3-4-40-34)

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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

June 3, 1955

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By memorandum dated November 20, 1953, you advised Mr. Tolson that Reston had called and desired to discuss some problems which had come up in his mind. He had been going back through the material published on Elizabeth Bentley and the persons concerning whom she had made accusations. Among the questions he raised were why Gregory Silvermaster had not been brought into the Harry Dexter White situation, and he inquired concerning Judith Coplon's being kept in Government so she could be watched and the Director's testifying in 1950 that the thing to do in espionage cases is watch the spies, find out who they are, and the like. You told Reston that we could not help him, and the Director noted, "Properly handled. This fellow has slanted all his articles against us and never made any effort to get the facts. Now that he has gotten out on the limb he wants help. Nothing doing. H."

RE ROBERT OPPENHEIMER:

On the evening of January 28, 1954, Mrs. Oppenheimer received a call from Reston, who was attempting to locate Dr. Oppenheimer. On the evening of January 28, 1954, Corbin Allerdice of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, advised the Washington Field Office that AEC Chairman Lewis Strauss had been contacted by Reston and advised that Reston had a full story of the "drastic action being taken against Dr. Oppenheimer." Allegedly, Reston wanted to clear his story with Strauss prior to publication. Strauss reportedly told Reston he could neither confirm nor deny the story, but felt that publication of it would be injurious to all of the interested parties. (100-17828-712, 725)

The Newark Office reported that, acting upon the advice of his attorney, Oppenheimer telephoned Reston, who had been attempting to contact him for three days. Reportedly, Reston was working on information he had received from a source he considered reliable, which information indicated that notices had been sent to Atomic Energy installations reflecting that Oppenheimer had been denied classified information because of a pending review of his case. Oppenheimer indicated to Reston that he did not feel it was appropriate to comment on this information since public discussion of it would make it difficult for everyone involved. Reston indicated he was at the point of printing a story, but did not wish to do so until he had discussed the matter with Oppenheimer. (100-17828-727)

The Newark Office reported that on April 9, 1954, Lloyd Garrison, attorney for Oppenheimer, had conferred with Reston regarding documents which had been furnished Reston. Garrison indicated that, after careful thought and consultation, it was their desire that Reston

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be most careful in the use of any material, since the thinking of the Board (probably Board reviewing Oppenheimer's case) regarding publicity and press releases was not known to Garrison. If it were necessary to publish some type of story before the Board's attitude on publicity became known, Reston was requested not to use quotes from the documents supplied him since they would make it apparent that the documents had been supplied. Garrison also believed that if direct quotations from the Government's charges were circulated about the country with people and newspapers which would not give Oppenheimer's answer the proper treatment, it would be difficult to off set the explosive quotations. Reston believed that if it became necessary to publish a story, the treatment which would be given in the papers would be such as to avoid the use of direct quotations. On April 11, 1954, it was reported that Oppenheimer had stated the procedure regarding publicity had been established and that the recommendation of Reston would be followed. It appeared on April 11, 1954, that the advice being given Oppenheimer regarding public relations was to present the entire material. (100-17828-1058)

An anonymous postal card dated April 13, 1954, received at the Bureau, stated: "Just a hunch- but it seems to me significant that the full text of Dr Oppenheims life story should appear so promptly in the New York Times and so well written. Could James Reston have ghosted it?...Knowing the Times record for defending Hiss and 'innocent people' in general, I hope this angle will be explored." (100-17828-1073)

RE YALTA PAPERS:

The Washington "Star" for April 19, 1955, contains an article captioned "Dulles Defends Release of Yalta Documents." This reflects the Secretary of State John Foster Dulles defended the release of the Yalta Papers in a statement he presented to a closed meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and confirmed published reports that Assistant Secretary of State For Public Affairs Carl W. McCardle had given the "New York Times" an advance copy of the documents on March 15, a day before they were handed out to the news media. Dulles stated that when he was preparing for press conference, Reston telephoned McCardle's Office and left a message that he (Reston) had had a long talk with Senator George "about the Yalta business." The message continued that Reston desired to see Secretary Dulles after the press conference on Tuesday, March 15, 1955.

Dulles stated that he conferred with Reston following the press conference, and Reston said Senator George wished to see the Yalta record made public by the State Department. Reston urged Dulles that it was of the utmost importance that the Papers be published as a whole "and not in garbled form"; that unless the "New York Times" did this, no one else would, but this would be expensive and time-consuming. Reston told Dulles

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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

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June 3, 1955

that if there was to be any comprehensive publication, "The New York Times" would have to have an advance copy of the papers in view of the enormous printing job. Dulles said he advised Reston that such matters fall under the jurisdiction of McCordle, and that he left McCordle with Reston. Dulles stated that he subsequently learned that McCordle gave a galley proof of the Yalta Papers to Reston on the evening of March 15, 1955, and that this involved the exercise by McCordle of a discretion which was his (McCordle's). (62-77668-A)

GENERAL INFORMATION RE RESTON:

Reston has been considered one of several possible suspects in the Espionage-R investigation captioned "Unknown Subject, [redacted]". This investigation was predicated upon information received from [redacted] reflecting that in 1944, the unknown subject had obtained high level information concerning such matters as Soviet non-participation in the Japanese War and the opening of a Second Front. It was indicated that the unknown subject had talked to the United States Ambassador to Russia, who at that time was W. Averell Harriman; and it appeared that the unknown subject was either a Government official or a newspaper representative. Harriman was interviewed in 1954, and recalled having returned to the U. S. for a short visit in May, 1944. He observed he was acquainted with just about all of the better known numbers of the press, and mentioned James Reston as one of these [redacted].

With further reference to Reston's being acquainted with State Department officials, it is noted that the New York Office reported in October, 1953, that G. Hayden Bayner of the State Department had a recollection that Reston had visited Stettinius' Office in connection with his efforts to obtain employment with the State Department. Bayner also stated that during the San Francisco United Nations Conference in 1945, he had observed Reston in the company of John Foster Dulles and had gained the impression that Dulles was very friendly with Reston. [redacted]

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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

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In July, 1953, the Washington Field Office reported in connection with the Internal Security - R and RR investigation of Julius Menken, that Menken's itinerary had been made available in connection with Menken's visit to the United States as a participant in the Foreign Leader Program. His itinerary included visits with a number of individuals, including Reston.

By memorandum dated October 21, 1953, Mr. Sizoo advised Mr. Belmont that a substantial portion of a letter from Congressman Alvin O'Konski to Syngman Rhee was set out in an article by Reston in "The New York Times" of October 20, 1953. O'Konski's letter to Rhee was a possible violation of the Logan Act which forbids a private citizen from carrying on correspondence or intercourse with a foreign Government or officer thereof with the intent to influence the conduct of such Government in relation to any controversies with the United States; and Reston noted this fact in his article.

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By memorandum dated August 16, 1954, Mr. Roach advised Mr. Belmont that an article by Reston had appeared in "The New York Times" on August 15, 1954, concerning Yuri Rastvorov, Soviet MVD official who had defected in Japan and whose defection was publicized on August 13, 1954. Mr. Roach noted that Reston

The article further described the ever present obstacles which arise when an intelligence agency is endeavoring to collect counterespionage and espionage information on one side and on the other, endeavors to use the information collected for political and psychological warfare projects." Mr. Roach further noted that Reston was very critical of the manner in which Rastvorov's defection was announced (100-408677-101)

On February 16, 1955, the Bureau advised G-2, Department of the Army, that no investigation pertinent to their inquiry concerning twenty-four individuals, including Reston, had been conducted by the FBI. This information was furnished G-2 in response to its request for the results of security-type investigations of individuals listed to attend the Army War College National Strategy Seminar. (62-60527-41836)

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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

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June 3, 1955

By memorandum dated April 2, 1955, you advised Mr. Tolson that Tom Naughten of the Foreign Operations Administration had called upon you to state that Governor Harold Stassen was giving thought to his new position with reference to disarmament. Stassen had asked Naughten to talk to the Bureau with respect to Stassen's desire to be alerted on the background and attitude of principal columnists, newspapermen and commentators. It was noted that Stassen believes "he has James Reston of 'The New York Times' pegged as being a New Dealer and one who is not pro-Russian, but who would get great delight out of embarrassing the administration." You told Naughten that Stassen was correct in this. (62-102185-2)

Reportedly, "The New York Times" for June 3, 1955, contains an article by Reston regarding surveillances of Yugoslavian United Nations delegates.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

- 2 - Belmont (initials)
- 1 - Branigan
- 1 - Lee
- 1 - DeLoach

TO: Classified by [redacted]
Indefinitely extended member
of [redacted] Staff
by [redacted]

Review Conducted
See Top Serial
Form 4-774

DATE: Feb 12, 1959

FOL/PA # 314057
APPEAL &
CIVIL DIV.
E.O. 12352
DATE 7/31/90
INITIALS [redacted]

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- McGuire
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

[redacted]

According to [redacted] Soviet agent and head of [redacted] information from a person designated first as Imperialist and later as Kats. This person obtained some of his information from highly placed United States officials such as Under Secretary of State Stettinius and U.S. Ambassador to Russia Harriman. Also in 1944 Imperialist mentioned recent Washington conferences and referred to his close friend, Cadogan, believed identical with Sir Alexander Cadogan, head of the British delegation to the Dumbarton Oaks Conference held in Washington, D. C. in 1944. The possibility exists that Imperialist was not a contact agent but was indiscreet in furnishing information obtained in confidence to Fraudin. The possibility is strong that Imperialist was a newspaper agent although the possibility cannot be overlooked that he might have been a State Department official.

Several points of similarity have been developed between Imperialist and James B. Reston, head of the Washington Bureau of "The New York Times." It was suggested to [redacted] by memorandum dated 5-13-58 that an interview should be had with Cadogan regarding his knowledge of James B. Reston. Cadogan was finally interviewed by the British and by memorandum dated 2-5-59 we were advised of the results of this interview. It was determined that Cadogan voluntarily stated that the only U.S. journalist he had known at all well was Reston. He also stated it would be an exaggeration to call him a close friend but they were certainly on friendly terms. Cadogan also recalled that immediately after the start of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference Reston got in trouble with the U.S. Government over some leak but he could not remember the details. The leak referred to by Cadogan was a leak from the British Delegation to Reston. This information was obtained from a review of the diaries of Edward R. Stettinius, head of the American Delegation to that Conference.

According to Bufiles, Reston is an outstanding and experienced journalist who has had numerous contacts in official circles in Washington, D. C. for many years. It is known that he has visited [redacted]

Enclosure
JPL:job
[redacted]

let to [redacted] 62-1111
NOT RECORDED
102 FEB 25 1959 FEB 24 1959
ESP. [redacted]

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont



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The Soviet Embassy on a continuing basis in his capacity for approximately 16 years. However, there was no indication in any of his writings that he is pro-Soviet but, in fact, his writings appear to be of an unbiased nature. His files contain information which would prohibit our interview of Reston.

This category is not correct. This dispatch is dead with McCarthy.
OBSERVATIONS: We have conducted an investigation to identify Imperialists since 1951 and he is believed to be either a newspaperman or someone in Government circles. The important thing is to determine, if possible, whether someone in Government ~~was~~ Imperialist and if such person may still be in the employ of the Government today. It is for this reason that we have pursued this investigation as far as we have and have interviewed such persons as John Foster Dulles, Sir Alexander Cadogan and Averell Harriman.

The interview of Reston does not appear to have a controversial aspect because the interviewing agent can inquire about Reston's knowledge of Vladimir Pravdin. If Reston states that he knew Pravdin, the agent can then explore Reston's contacts with Pravdin with a view toward determining if Reston is Imperialist and if Reston in his capacity as a newspaperman discussed political events of the day. We would then close this case.

ACTIONS:

If you approve there is attached a letter to WFO authorizing that office to conduct an interview of James B. Reston in order to determine if he could be identical with the unknown subject. WFO is instructed to have this interview conducted by experienced agent completely familiar with the background of instant case and to exercise extreme caution in order that information is not jeopardized. WFO is also instructed to have this interview predicated upon Reston's knowledge of

JH was over
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I doubt the wisdom of interviewing Reston

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2/16

I thoroughly concur. Greater hostile information received probably collected

Handwritten note on the right margin, partially obscured.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION
DATE 12/03/2019

1 - Lee

SAC, Washington Field

February 20, 1959

Director, FBI

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Limited Classification
Review Conducted
See Top Serial
Form 4-774

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[Redacted]

By memorandum dated 2-5-59 [Redacted] advised that Sir Alexander Cadogan had been reinterviewed for information pertaining to the instant case. During this reinterview Cadogan reaffirmed that he had never been on close terms with Marquis Childs and volunteered before any other possible candidates were suggested to him that the only United States journalist he had known at all well was James (Scottie) Reston. Concerning Reston, Cadogan stated that he had known him quite well. He stated it would be an exaggeration to call him a close friend but they were certainly on friendly terms. Cadogan did not remember ever having met Reston in London and said he thought he had first met him at Lumberton Oaks Conference. He recalled that immediately after the start of this conference, Reston got into trouble with the U.S. Government over some leak but he could not remember the details. Cadogan added that Reston perhaps was "not always terribly discreet."

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The names of certain State Department officials were also discussed with Cadogan and his immediate comments were as follows:

- Adolf A. Berle, Jr. - Cadogan met him once or twice but had few dealings with him.
- Lee Pasvolaky - Cadogan had a lot to do with him. Cadogan described Pasvolaky as very clever, very erudite and an ingenious draughtsman. Cadogan also met him occasionally socially.
- Herbert Feis - Cadogan said he supposed he had met him.
- Stanley K. Hornbeck - Cadogan said he had quite a lot to do with him. He described Hornbeck as "elderly" (probably in his sixties) in 1944. He said he was a stellar legal adviser, stubborn in discussion, cautious and very solid.

New York [Redacted]

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 CLASSIFIED BY [Redacted]
 DECLASSIFY ON: [Redacted]

COMM-FBI
FEB 21 1959

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DATE 1/11/99 BY [Redacted]

Letter to Washington Field



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Cadogan then asked to be taken through the whole case again and in the process of this re-examination the impression was gained that Cadogan was trying to make up his mind whether Reston or Pasvolsky made the better candidate. He could not state whether he thought the evidence pointed more to unknown subject being a State Department official or a journalist. During the discussion it was felt that Cadogan tended more and more to consider that Pasvolsky might be the man although he did not say so in so many words. Cadogan recalled Pasvolsky was very close to Stettinius (Edward R. Stettinius, then Under Secretary of State) and might well have talked to Stettinius along the lines of the information furnished on 5-16-44. He also added that Pasvolsky was very much interested in the Soviet-Polish situation but so were many other people.

At the close of the interview Cadogan undertook to examine his diary and to search his memory to see whether he could add anything to the above. He has been able to add nothing to the above except for amplification of his relationship with Pasvolsky. He describes Pasvolsky as an encyclopaedic little man, very much in Stettinius' pocket and a very active and hard-working member of the delegation (probably refers to the American Delegation to the Dumbarton Oaks Conference). Pasvolsky attended one dinner at the British Embassy where Cadogan was staying but on various occasions he was at the same luncheon table at Dumbarton Oaks with Cadogan but there always were others present. Cadogan states he must have had a lot to do with Pasvolsky on drafting committees and inter-Delegation discussions.

Your letter 4-22-58 requested Bureau authority to interview James Reston, chief of the Washington Bureau of "The New York Times," upon completion of the interview with Cadogan in an attempt to determine if Reston is identical with the unknown subject. The Bureau does not agree that Reston should be interviewed at this time. In addition, it is not believed that a reinterview of

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Letter to Washington Field

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] ✓

John Foster Dulles or Averell Harriman would be productive since both have been previously interviewed and have been unable to shed any light on the identity of the unknown subject. It is also felt that an interview of General George Marshall would not be productive as there is no information indicating positively that the unknown subject knew Marshall nor is there any information available that Marshall would have knowledge of the identity of the unknown subject.

In view of the above, this case should be placed in a closed status in your office subject to being reopened in the event further identifying information is obtained from [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] ✓

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

Limited Classification
Review Conducted
See Top Serial
Form 3-74

~~TOP SECRET~~
CLASSIFIED BY: 3 (405)
DATE: March 10, 1957
F. B. I.
INITIALS

FROM : G. H. Scatterday

SUBJECT: ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER, JR.
JAMES BARRETT RESTON

SYNOPSIS: James Reston

Pursuant to Director's request 3-6-59, Bureau files checked to furnish information to James Hagerly, Press Secretary, White House. Arthur Meier Schlesinger, Jr., Harvard University professor, investigated under European Recovery Program, 1948. No one interviewed indicated him to be communist or sympathizer. Described as anticommunist liberal, extremely learned; leader for freedom of expression; and opposed to investigations and witch hunts. One person said he was "liberal throughout Roosevelt era and like so many other liberals was pro-Soviet." Father, Schlesinger, Sr., member or affiliated with numerous Communist Party (CP) fronts. Morris Ernst said father was not communist but that activities in defending civil rights involved him in CP front groups. Schlesinger, Jr., came to Bureau; interviewed by Nichols; admitted father had belonged to or affiliated with numerous CP fronts and admitted he had criticized House Committee on Un-American Activities. Schlesinger, Jr., questioned FBI's efficiency, and said espionage rampant in Washington, 1930's; feared political and intellectual freedoms intimidated by FBI. He was not straight by Director's letter, 3/50. Active in Americans for Democratic Action many years; wrote speeches Adlai Stevenson, 1948 presidential campaign. His writings have been anti-communist and has been attacked by communist press many times. Enclosed letter to Mr. [redacted] with information in our files appropriate for his use. James Barrett Reston, head of Washington Bureau of "New York Times" newspaper, has been investigated by the Bureau and files contain information which show association with CP or front groups. Reston is known to right placed Government officials and apparently has good contacts for obtaining news items. Texas News Agency considers Reston to be reliable with good sources at White House. Reston criticized "Communist" in article in connection with Harry Dexter White case. Appeared before Senate Subcommittee in 1950 and questioned regarding contacts in obtaining news from State Department. Article "Counterattack" critical of Reston, 1/53. Reston inquired of State Department 6/55 to verify shake-up of FBI New York Office in connection with Yugoslavian surveillances.

Enclosures

JWB/CEM/urn
(5)
1 - Mr. Belmont EX-135
1 - Mr. [redacted]

MCT-23

NOT RECORDED
MAR 30 1959

MAR 27 1959

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Letter to Belmont
Re: ~~WALTER SCHLESINGER, JR.~~
~~JAMES BARRETT RESTON~~

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Corresponded with Attorney General in 1956 regarding FBI investigation of Times office boy who was seen coming out of Czech Embassy. ~~Suspect~~ in espionage investigation to identify unsub. ~~Imperialist~~. Case closed 2/59. ~~Article~~ "Editor and Publisher," 4/53, Reston critical of Jim Hagerty. Enclosed letter to Mr. Hagerty also sets forth information on Reston appropriate for his use.

ACTION:

If you approve, the enclosed letter to Mr. Hagerty go forth.

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Memorandum Scatterday to Belmont
 Re: ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER, JR.
 JAMES BARRETT RESTON

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DETAILS

Pursuant to the Director's request of March 6, 1959, Bureau files have been reviewed with the purpose in mind of providing information to Mr. James Hagerly, The Press Secretary, The White House, which may be of interest to him concerning the above-captioned individuals.

Schlesinger, a Harvard University professor, was investigated by the Bureau under the European Recovery Program in 1948. No one interviewed alleged that he is or was a communist or a communist sympathizer. He was described by most as a violently anticommunist liberal. Morris Ernst gave him an unqualified recommendation. One individual said he was a "liberal throughout the Roosevelt era and like so many other liberals was pro-Soviet." This statement, an isolated one, is the only information that we have indicating any pro-Soviet feeling on the part of Schlesinger, Jr. Since World War II he has become increasingly aware of communist tactics and strategy, including front organizations and has actively written against all sides of them. All persons interviewed believed him to be entirely loyal to the United States. He was described as a New Deal liberal; extremely learned; a leader for freedom of expression; anticommunist; and opposed to "investigations and witchhunts."

Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr., also a Harvard professor, has belonged to many organizations declared subversive by the Attorney General. Some information in our files can be definitely imputed to Schlesinger, Sr.; much of it because identifying data is lacking cannot be imputed to either Junior or Senior Schlesinger. It is noted also that some information received from other Government agencies and information contained in Senate Committee reports is incorrectly attributed to Schlesinger, Jr., for we have information in our files which shows that the activities are definitely attributed to Schlesinger, Sr. Morris Ernst said Schlesinger, Sr., is not a communist but that his activities in defending "civil rights" involved him in several communist front groups.

In July, 1948, W. Averell Harriman, Economic Cooperation Administration wanted Schlesinger, Jr., to assist him in Paris.

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Memorandum Scatterday to Belmont
Re: ARTHUR WEISS SCHLESINGER, JR.
JAMES BARRETT RESTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

Information was brought to the Bureau's attention that Schlesinger, Jr., could not be cleared to go over seas and it was indicated that possibly this was brought about by a mix-up in the identity between Junior and Senior Schlesinger. At this time Schlesinger, Jr., came to the Bureau and talked with Mr. Nichols in detail, pointing out his anticommunist feelings as indicated by his writings. He denied any affiliation with communist groups but admitted that his father had belonged to and supported various communist fronts. He admitted that he had in a speech given in Boston during May, 1947, taken off on the House Committee on Un-American Activities for their "unwarranted interference in our democratic way of life."

Schlesinger, Jr., has on more than one occasion criticized FBI use of informants, questioned the FBI's efficiency, stating that a great deal of communist espionage went on in Washington in the 1930's under the nose of the FBI without being uncovered. He inferred that political and intellectual freedoms are intimidated by the FBI. Schlesinger, in a letter dated March 15, 1950, from the Director, was told that his attack was manifestly unfair and pointed out why.

Schlesinger has on various occasions denounced the House Un-American Activities Committee. He has for many years been active in the Americans for Democratic Action; was a speech writer for Adlai Stevenson during his campaign for the presidency; has been an ardent speaker for civil liberties; has defended the rights of communists to follow their political philosophies as long as they keep within the rules of the law. On the other hand, our files contain many references indicating Schlesinger's anticommunist feelings and show that he has been attacked innumerable times by the communist press for his attacks on communists in his various writings. For example, Schlesinger attended an Inter-American Conference for Democracy and Liberty in Havana, Cuba, during May, 1950, as one of several United States delegates. The conference adopted a declaration repudiating communism and criticized specifically certain communists and attacked Latin American dictatorships. The "Daily Worker" severely criticized Schlesinger for his book "The Vital Center." This book dealt with the future of the Non-Communist Left and the necessity for divorcing itself from communist influence.

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Memorandum Scatterday to Belmont
 Re: ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER, JR.
 JAMES BARRETT RESTON

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^{summary}
 James Barrett Reston was born in Glidebank, Scotland, November 3, 1909, and has been associated with the Washington Bureau of the "New York Times" since 1941. The Bureau has not conducted any investigation concerning Reston, and our files failed to show Reston associated with the Communist Party or any front groups. [References in Bureau files indicate Reston well known to many highly placed Government officials and apparently has contacts among Government agencies to receive major news releases prior to the official release. He has had numerous contacts with Soviet and satellite embassy officials through his position as a diplomatic correspondent.] According to articles appearing in our files, Reston is anticommunist and has been attacked by such communist publications as the "Worker," "Narodni Glasnik" and "American Soviet Facts."

In an article in November, 1953, in connection with the Harry Dexter White case, Reston wrote "There is some reason to believe that the FBI checked Mr. White's telephones and, for a time during the war, even opened his mail." Following the Director's testimony in the White case, Reston wrote an article describing the Director's testimony as "brilliant and an extraordinary performance." Reston contacted Assistant to the Director Nichols in November, 1953, to discuss problems growing out of the White case. Nichols told him we could not help, and the Director noted "Properly handled. This fellow has slanted all his articles against us and never made any effort to get the facts ---."

Tass News Agency reportedly considers columns by Reston to reliably reflect the administrative policy of President Eisenhower and feels that Reston's reports come from sources very close to the inner sanctum of the White House. (S) U

In Whittaker Chamber's book "Witness" he states that Reston was asked by John Foster Dulles for his opinion of Alger Hiss as a possible candidate for the presidency of Carnegie Endowment, and Reston replied that Hiss would be a very good choice. Reston was involved with Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Strauss in 1954 when he allegedly had the full story of nonclearance action against Robert Oppenheimer by the Atomic Energy Commission. Reston obtained a copy of the Yalta documents from Carl W. McCardle of the State Department in March, 1955, prior to official release.

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Memorandum Scatterday to Belmont
Re: ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER, JR.
JAMES BARNETT RESTON

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Reston has been one of several suspects in espionage investigation in an attempt to identify unknown subject Imperialist, resulting from information received from [REDACTED] This case was closed in February, 1959, without identification of Imperialist or interview of Reston.

Tom Naughton of Foreign Operations Administration stated in April, 1955, that Harold Stassen believes he has Reston "pegged for being a New Dealer and one who is not pro-Russian but would get great delight out of embarrassing the administration." Reston in telephonic conversation with Robert Murphy, State Department, on June 2, 1955, attempted to verify information received by him of a shake-up of the New York FBI office as a result of exposure of surveillances on Yugoslavian Embassy officials.

Reston wrote a letter to former Attorney General Brownell in February, 1955, in which he enclosed a statement of an office boy of the Washington Bureau of the "New York Times" stating that the office boy had reason to believe the FBI was checking on him as a result of seeing him come out of the Czechoslovakian Embassy. According to Reston the office boy was picking up passports for Times personnel.

According to an article appearing in the "Editor and Publisher" of March 15, 1958, the "New York Times" column "Random Notes" March 10, 1958, is quoted in part as follows: "The administration practice of having [REDACTED] shadow reporters to detect their sources for delicate news stories continues unabated here (Washington)." --- "It has become standard practice when the administration is particularly annoyed at seeing one of its secrets in print to force underlings to sign affidavits swearing they did not leak the story. In some cases telephones are tapped both within and without the Government ---" The article contained a reply from James C. Hagerty as "It's certainly news to me; I just don't believe it -- there is nothing like that down here." James R. Reston, Times Bureau Chief is quoted as saying, "It's obvious to us that Jim Hagerty knows very little about what has been going on around here for the last fifteen years. If he did he wouldn't be 'surprised.' The Democrats did it and these fellows (the Republicans) are doing it."

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- 6 -
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Memorandum Scatterday to Belmont
Re: ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER, JR.
JAMES BARRETT HESTON

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The information in the enclosed letter to Mr. Hagerty sets forth all information available in our files suitable for his use. Some information consisting of rumor and unverified allegations has not been furnished as it would not appear appropriate for dissemination.

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