

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Wick	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

TO: Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 14, 1966

FROM: R. E. Wick

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-3-91 BY SP8 JAW/BJ

SUBJECT: PHILIP J. CORSO;  
ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE FBI MEMORANDUM  
INTO EVIDENCE IN LIBEL SUIT

293,828

At 1:10 p.m., 4-14-66, Bishop in my office received a telephone call from one Robert Manuel, suite 620, Shoreham Building, Washington, D. C., telephone RRepublic 7-4660. He identified himself as an attorney who was representing Colonel Philip J. Corso in connection with the libel suit which Corso has filed against columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson. He stated that depositions are presently being taken in connection with the libel suit in the office of attorney John Donovan, Washington, D. C., who represents Anderson and Pearson. He stated that today Anderson and Pearson attempted to have put into evidence, by means of a deposition, a memorandum of Mr. Hoover directed to the Attorney General dated November 10, 1964, dealing with Philip J. Corso and also containing data in the memorandum concerning

Manuel advised that he has objected to the introduction of this memorandum by Anderson and Pearson.

Manuel advised that he has reason to believe that this memorandum was made available by the Attorney General to Congressman Emanuel Celler, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, as a result of a name check on Corso requested by the Judiciary Committee of the Attorney General. Manuel also advised that it is his understanding that Congressman Michael A. Feighan (D - Ohio) knows something about this memorandum and its background, but Congressman Feighan is out of town and back in Ohio today and Manuel is unable to contact him.

### BACKGROUND:

The memorandum to which Manuel undoubtedly refers is a memorandum from the Director to Acting Attorney General dated 11-10-64 (copy attached). Mr. Hoover's communication was in response to a request from Harold Reis of the Department on a name check on Corso. Previous information which we have received indicates that the Attorney General either showed the memorandum to Congressman Celler or had left it with Congressman Celler. As a result of the memorandum Congressman Celler prevented Congressman Feighan from hiring Corso on the staff of Feighan's Subcommittee on

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Sullivan

Enclosures

TEB:par (5)

(Continued - Over)

b3  
CIA

EX-114

REC-32

6 APR 18 1966

ENCLOSURE

Wick to DeLoach Memo, 4-14-66  
RE: PHILIP J. CORSO

Immigration and Nationalities which is under the supervision of the House Judiciary Committee of which Congressman Celler is the Chairman.

ACTION TAKEN:

Attorney Manuel asked Bishop if it was a violation of Federal law for the memorandum referred to to be in the possession of Anderson and Pearson. When he was advised by Bishop that Bishop would be unable to comment on this matter he indicated that he was going to take this up with the Attorney General so that appropriate action could be taken against Anderson and Pearson in the event they have violated a Federal law by being in possession of the memorandum.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached memorandum to the Attorney General be sent advising him of the above.

*[Handwritten initials and marks: a large checkmark, the letters 'TEB', and several other initials including 'P', 'JG', and 'DR']*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

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

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

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

62-110017-6

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this page X  
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XXXXXX  
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# Memorandum

TO : The Director, FBI

DATE: APR 25 1966

FROM : Nicholas deB. Katzenbach  
Attorney General

SUBJECT: Lieutenant Colonel Philip J. Corso

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Wick
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

*gm*

Thank you for your memorandum of April 15, 1966, concerning your earlier memorandum to me of November 10, 1965, relating to Lieutenant Colonel Philip J. Corso.

*b7c*

For your information, the latter memorandum was in fact made available by me both to Chairman Emanuel Celler of the House Judiciary Committee and to Chairman Michael A. Feighan of the Joint Committee on Immigration and Nationality Policy. This was done pursuant to our policy of making name checks of this type pertaining to Congressional employees available from time to time to the chairmen of Congressional committees, subject to their agreement to respect the confidentiality of the document.

I am transmitting herewith a copy of my letter of March 4, 1965, to Chairman Feighan in which I refer to the fact that name checks frequently contain unevaluated information and "for that reason we insist that its confidential status be preserved." The same point was made to Chairman Celler orally.

cc: Deputy Attorney General

EX-114

REC-12

62-110017-7

APR 25 1966

ENCLOSURE

69 APR 29 1966

March 1963

Honorable Member, Foreign  
Committee on International  
Relations and National Policy  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Congressman:

In accordance with your request, I am transmitting a  
copy of the original memorandum to me from the director  
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, dated November 10, 1962,  
concerning the activities of the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

The information made available to you in your  
capacity as a member of the Foreign Committee on International  
Relations and National Policy, and provided you, the information contained  
in this memorandum is provided on a similar confidential  
basis. It is requested that you advise the Chairman of  
the Committee on International Relations and National Policy  
of any use of this information for official or Congressional em-  
ployees are from that office and available on request to the chair-  
men of Congress and their staffs subject to their agreement with  
respect to the confidentiality of the document. In this instance, it  
would have no effect on your permitting the Chairman of your com-  
mittee to read the document on a personal and confidential basis if  
that is your desire. However, it should be made clear that  
this check such as this frequently contains unclassified information  
contained in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and it is  
for that reason we insist that its confidential status be preserved.

Sincerely,

Attorney General

ENCLOSURE

W. MOORE

ENCLOSURE

XERO COPY

XERO COPY

XERO COPY

SAM MURN, GEORGIA, CHAIRMAN  
 J. JAMES EXON, NEBRASKA  
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 BLAINE GORTON, WASHINGTON  
 STRENT LOTT, MISSISSIPPI  
 DAN COATS, INDIANA

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

October 10, 1990

Honorable William S. Sessions  
 Director  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 J. Edgar Hoover Building  
 Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Sessions:

The attached letter from Colonel Philip J. Corso is forwarded for your consideration. The information on the explosive device appears genuine and may be useful in our nation's war against terrorism.

Please correspond directly with Colonel Corso if you desire additional information on this matter.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Strom Thurmond*

Strom Thurmond

ST/p

Enclosure

*Interim to  
 Sen. Thurmond  
 17 Oct 90 / JB*

*Final Reply  
 Sen. Thurmond  
 11/2/90  
 Cramer*

*OK  
 10/16/90*

2001 19 1976

DEAR SENATOR THURMOND

THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF READERS  
 DIGEST HAS AN ARTICLE OF DONALD HUSTON'S  
 OF WORLD TERRORISM PLEASE NOTE MY  
 MARRIAGES ON PAGE 64, ESPECIALLY, THE MENTION  
 OF A "SPECIAL BAROMETRIC DEVICE" DURING  
 THE PERIOD IN WHICH I WAS THE ACCESSORY  
 OF THE IRON AREA COMMAND. WE CAPTURED A  
 NAZI SABOTAGE AGENT AND HIS COMPANIONS  
 WHO HAD DEVELOPED A DEVICE WHICH WAS A BOMB TO BE USED AGAINST  
 AIRCRAFT. IT WAS SHAPED LIKE A SAUSAGE,  
 GRAY IN APPEARANCE, TO LOOK LIKE A SAUSAGE,  
 ABOUT 2 FEET LONG AND 1 1/2 INCHES IN DIAMETER,  
 IT CONTAINED A BAROMETRIC FUSE. THE  
 OUTSIDE WAS COATED WITH A STICKY SUBSTANCE  
 IT WAS LIGHT FLEXIBLE AND COULD BE  
 THROWN TO STICK TO THE SIDE OF AN AIRCRAFT  
 AT THE PROPER ALTITUDE IT WOULD GO OFF  
 AND DESTROY THE AIRCRAFT. WE CAPTURED  
 THE BOMBS AND PUT OUT AN ALERT. I DON'T  
 KNOW THAT WE LOST ANY AIRCRAFT.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE BOMB WAS MADE IN  
 GERMANY AND THE DIGEST STORY MENTION'S  
 REUS'S NEAR DUSSELDORF THIS SHOULD BE LOOKED  
 INTO. IT IS A DANGEROUS DEARTH IF RECOVERED  
 AND COULD BE A THREAT NOT ONLY TO CIVIL  
 AIRCRAFT, BUT MILITARY AND SEVEN PERCENT  
 AMOUNTS WILL GET THIS INFORMATION INTO  
 THE RIGHT HANDS.

AS EVER

PHILIP J. CORSO  
 COL US ARMY (RE)

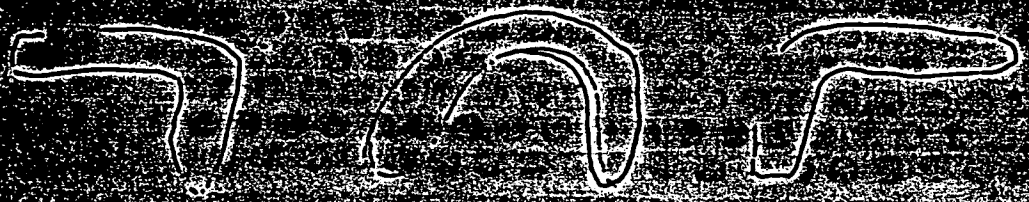
RE: NY 100-115  
 RE: NY 100-115  
 IF YOU NEED IT NEG

62-110017-8

REC-99

SEEMED TO LOOK  
LIKE A PAUSAGE

COATED WITH A STICKY SUBSTANCE  
WHICH IT



BASED ON THAT  
AND THROWN LIKE A  
BOMBERANG

EXPLODED OFF AS IT HIT  
THE GUN

NOTE: I HANDLED THE DEVICE WHEN WE  
TOOK OUT THE FUSE, I COULD THROW  
IT 75 TO 100 FT. A BIGGER, STRONGER  
MAN COULD DO MUCH BETTER



*a recognized authority on international terrorism, reveals not only a master plan but a mastermind behind the terrorist war. His documented discoveries have been confirmed by intelligence and counter-terrorism officials in six countries, as well as by sources within Iran itself. Here is his report:*

BY THE LATE MORNING of July 9, 1988, temperatures in Teheran approached 100 degrees, but the high-ranking officials gathered in the heavily guarded building on Pasdaran Street worked in air-conditioned comfort. Their purpose: to avenge the mistaken downing of an Iran Air passenger jet by the USS *Vincennes* six days earlier. The Ayatollah Khomeini had decreed that the United States must pay.

A squat, brooding figure sat at the head of the table. Wearing a dark turban and robes, the man presiding was a senior mullah, or priest, of Iran's predominant religion—the Shi'ite sect of Islam. And as Minister of the Interior, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, 42, was one of the most powerful leaders in a nation of extremists. From his offices in Teheran, Mohtashemi directed a vast network of Iranian-supported terrorist cells.

Ironically, Mohtashemi himself had been a victim of terrorism. On February 14, 1984, a bound edition of the Koran, sent to him in a diplomatic pouch, exploded, blowing away his right hand and part of an ear, and severing two fingers on his left

and. He was flown to West Germany for medical care.

Believing that agents of the CIA and Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, were responsible, Mohtashemi's hatred of the United States reached psychotic proportions. (In fact, some counter-terrorist analysts suspect Syrians sent the bomb.)

**Tragic Blunder.** Mohtashemi spoke in a grainy whisper, and the planners at the table had to strain to catch his words. One was Ahmad Jibril, 51, a former captain in the Syrian army and one of the most feared terrorists in the Middle East. The plan was that not one but four U.S.-owned airliners would be blown out of the skies over Europe in a single day.

It was vital that Iran's role remain undiscovered, so Mohtashemi had "contracted" Jibril and his 500-member organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), to carry out the mission. His pay was reported to be \$10 million.

Jibril had been on Teheran's terrorist payroll for years. His trademark: sophisticated barometric-pressure bombs programmed to detonate at a specific altitude. Small but powerful, the devices contained a Czech-made explosive called Semtex, which is virtually undetectable by airport luggage scanners.

Between July and mid-October, Jibril dispatched teams to survey airports and U.S. flights out of Athens, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Helsinki and Stockholm. Iranian

diplomats, trained terrorists themselves who reported to Mohtashemi, assisted them. One, Mehdi Ahari Mostafavi, was Iran's ambassador in Bonn, West Germany.

The Semtex explosives were smuggled to the West German town of Neuss near Düsseldorf. Here, at one of the organization's safe houses, an expert bomb maker assembled them into lethal barometric devices concealed in cassette players and video equipment. To ensure the greatest number of deaths, the bombs would be slipped on planes during the peak Christmas travel season.

But, alerted by surveillance and wiretaps, West Germany's federal police concluded that a major terrorist incident was in the offing. On October 26, squads of heavily armed plainclothesmen arrested 16 PFLP-GC agents and other suspects in five cities, the nucleus of the organization's German network. Among those held was Jibril's chief of foreign operations, Hafez Dalkamoni, a vital link in the conspiracy. When police searched his car, they discovered one of the bombs—fully armed.

Incredibly, a judge released 11 of the suspects the next day, citing insufficient evidence—even though a police raid on a second PFLP-GC safe house in Frankfurt yielded one of the largest arsenals of terrorist weapons ever seized in West Germany. And, tragically, police were not aware of the identity of the targets.

The arrests had, however, disrupted the timing of the operation. Mohtashemi and Jibril were forced to alter their plan, concentrating on one flight instead of four.

Pan Am 103, from Frankfurt to New York via London was targeted, some analysts say, because four U.S. security and intelligence officers were on board. Three of those four were returning home after a secret mission in Lebanon. Ominously, counter-terrorist experts report, Iranian operatives have penetrated the reservations computers of major Western airlines and are able to read passenger manifests. Thus, they can single out high-profile diplomats, political leaders and intelligence officers.

According to one reliable source, on December 20—a day before the bombing—U.S. electronics-intelligence technicians intercepted a communication from Iran's Beirut embassy to Teheran, alerting Mohtashemi's aides to the Americans' itinerary. Yet, the CIA failed to warn either the officers or the airline. This despite the fact that earlier a warning had been passed on to the agency by Israel's Mossad.

On the night of December 21, a bomb exploded in the forward baggage compartment of Pan Am 103 as it passed over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 on board died, and another 11 persons were killed on the ground.

**Terrorist Beginnings.** Ali Akbar Mohtashemi was born in Teheran in 1946. Barely into his teens, he

November 2, 1990

CLASSIFIED  
EXCERPT  
RISK  
REC

Honorable Strom Thurmond  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

I am writing in further response to your October 10th communication regarding correspondence you received from Colonel Philip J. Corso, USA (Ret.).

Colonel Corso wrote to you about lethal barometric devices after reading about the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in the September, 1990, issue of the Reader's Digest. We certainly appreciate his interest in sharing with us his experiences with a similar device made by the Germans while he served in World War II. His communication has been passed along to appropriate personnel.

Thank you for making this information available to us.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Collingwood  
Inspector in Charge  
Congressional Affairs Office

- 1 - Columbia - Enclosures (4)
- 1 - [redacted] (Room 5423, TL-243)
- 1 - Congressional Affairs Office

62-110017-9

NOTE: Senator Thurmond wrote on behalf of Colonel PHILIP J. CORSO, USA (Ret.), who had furnished him information regarding his experiences during WWII after reading about a lethal barometric device in connection with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. Bufiles indicate that CORSO was an intelligence officer for over 15 of his 20 years in the U.S. Army. He has contacted the FBI from time to time, especially in the 1940s, usually in connection with some allegation concerning the subversive activity of one individual or another. He was alleged to have been responsible for starting a rumor that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was an FBI informant. He was interviewed regarding this, but gave conflicting information about his sources and ended up stating his sources had no facts, but that their belief OSWALD was an FBI informant merely stemmed from idle deduction during a conversation. Bufiles further indicate he has caused the FBI and other Federal agencies to expend many hours of work and much manpower in hunting down wild accusations. Reply coordinated with Counterterrorism Section, CID.

NOV 05 1990

CA Free (8)

APPROVED

1576  
FBI

Handwritten signatures and stamps at the bottom of the page, including "Walt" and "SHELDON".