

United States Department of Justice
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington 25, D. C.
 January 5, 1953

REFER TO

FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
 MR. NICHOLS ✓
 MR. LADD

On December 30, 1952, at the request of General Eisenhower, I called at his headquarters at 9:30 a. m.

The General stated that he was desirous of talking with me about the contents of some of the reports upon the investigations which we had made of persons who were being appointed to important positions in his administration. He referred particularly to the report upon Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, who has been named to head the Federal Security Agency. He stated he noted that in the FBI report there was reference to the fact that there had been a rumor at one time that she had been a "kept" mistress but that the investigation had failed to substantiate any such allegation. The General stated that he would like to have me give consideration to the possibility of setting up two files upon cases, one to contain the factual material and the other to contain the rumors which we have not been able to substantiate. He stated that he made this suggestion because he felt, first, that it was probably unfair to disseminate rumors about an individual, even though such rumors are dispelled through investigation; and secondly, he stated that he anticipated that there would be brought to bear upon him considerable pressure after he became President to make available certain Government files. He stated he had, while in the Armed Services, declined to make available files to Congress but that there might be pressure of sufficient volume exerted that would make it necessary for him to re-evaluate this procedure and if there were two sets of files on an individual or a situation, one containing facts established and the other the rumors, that he might be inclined to make available in some situations the actual files. He stated he certainly would be opposed to making available to Congress or anyone else the so-called "raw" files that contained largely rumors.

I informed the General that it had been the practice of the Bureau not to disseminate to other Government agencies uncorroborated information but that we had included complete information in the reports being made to his office upon applicants in view of the importance of the positions to which such persons were being appointed. I also informed the General that I would have an immediate study made to put into force and effect the suggestions that he had made of having two separate files, one containing facts and the other rumors. (Upon my return to my hotel, I contacted Mr. Ladd by long distance and instructed him to see that this study was made and that steps were taken to put the practice into force and effect. I also instructed Mr. Ladd to see

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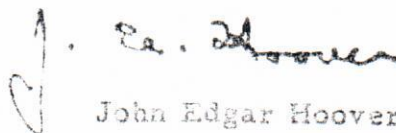
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that all future reports to General Eisenhower's headquarters be carefully screened to eliminate any uncorroborated rumors or gossip.)

The General discussed at some length with me some of the over-all problems dealing with investigations and with intelligence. He stated that it was his desire to have the FBI handle the domestic phase of such matters and CIA the foreign. He stated he felt that both agencies might be able to work cordially together and effect results for the best interests of the country. He commented that General Smith was a very good man, although inclined at times to "pop off." He commented favorably upon Mr. Allen Dulles and inquired of me as to what my opinion was concerning him. I told General Eisenhower I felt that Allen Dulles was a brilliant man with a very excellent mind but that he sometimes was not as practical as he might be in regard to operational intelligence. I also indicated to General Eisenhower that I felt that General Smith was a very sincere and earnest man but, unfortunately, he had inherited from OSS some elements that were not conducive to the best operations of such an agency as CIA.

During the course of my discussion with General Eisenhower I mentioned the case of Mr. Arthur Vandenberg and outlined briefly to the General some of the angles of the case which we are now investigating. I told the General that Vandenberg had asked that we not interview the young man at present living with Vandenberg until he, Vandenberg, came out of the hospital, to which he had gone for a physical check over the last week end. The General inquired about some other phases of this matter about which I informed him. The General told me that should Mr. Vandenberg decide that he did not desire to continue in the position to which he had been appointed as Secretary to the President, that I could inform Vandenberg that no report would be submitted as it would then be a moot question. (I transmitted this information to Mr. Nichols but subsequent developments have indicated that Mr. Vandenberg desires that the investigation be concluded and that a report be submitted to General Eisenhower. This, of course, should be expedited.)

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director