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U.S. PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION ACTIVITIES  
(JACKSON COMMITTEE): Records, 1950-53

Accession: 83-9  
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The Records of the U.S. President's Committee on International Information Activities were transferred to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library from the National Security Council in August 1981.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 5.5  
Approximate number of pages: 10,950  
Approximate number of items: 2,000

Literary rights in the official records created by this Committee are in the public domain. Literary rights in personal papers which might be among the Committee's records are reserved to their respective authors. These records were reviewed under provisions of the instrument of gift which Dwight D. Eisenhower signed on April 13, 1960. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers that are security-classified until such classification shall be removed.
2. Papers the use of which may be prejudicial to the maintenance of good relations with foreign nations.
3. Papers containing statements made in confidence unless the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.
4. Papers relating to family or private business affairs.
5. Papers containing statements which might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Records of the President's Committee on International Information Activities (Jackson Committee) span the years 1950-53 but most of the records fall into the period January 24 to June 30, 1953 when the Committee was in existence. These records consist of official and public correspondence, memoranda, reports, summaries of interviews and proposals, lists, indexes, draft sections of the Committee report, the full Committee report, press clippings, press releases, and other materials relevant to the Committee's operation.

On November 26, 1952, C.D. Jackson, an adviser to General Eisenhower on psychological warfare matters, sent the President-elect a memorandum recommending the establishment of a presidential committee. This committee should conduct a comprehensive survey of the United States' accomplishment in psychological warfare while also examining the United States' knowledge of the Soviet Union's cold war activities. This body should then propose future United States Government information and psychological warfare programs.

President Eisenhower promptly acted on these recommendations after his inauguration on January 20, 1953. On January 24, the President officially appointed the President's Committee on International Information Activities. Its specified purpose was to "survey and evaluate the Government's information and related policies and activities with particular reference to international relations and the national security." In his announcement on January 26 the President said "It has long been my conviction that a unified and dynamic effort in this field is essential to the security of the United States and of the peoples in the community of free nations."

President Eisenhower appointed, as chairman, William H. Jackson, a managing partner in the investment firm J.H. Whitney and Company, and a former Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Hence the body became known as the Jackson Committee. Other Committee members included Robert Cutler, C.D. Jackson, Roger Kyes, Sigurd Larmon, Gordon Gray, Barklie McKee Henry, and John C. Hughes. Abbott Washburn served as Executive Secretary of the Committee and was assisted by a deputy, Robert Blum. The Committee's staff and secretariat consisted of about 25 people drawn from the Department of State, Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, Mutual Security Agency, and the Office of Defense Mobilization.

The Jackson Committee first met on January 30, 1953 and, during its existence, interviewed over 250 witnesses, including many representatives of government departments and agencies. It also consulted with members of Congress, studied much highly classified material furnished by various agencies, and received a large volume of correspondence both from government officials and from members of the public and private organizations.

The Committee presented a security classified report to the President on June 30, 1953, with its conclusions and recommendations being turned over to the National Security Council for study. A White House press release issued on July 8 summarized the Committee's unclassified findings and recommendations. The Committee's pessimistic assessment of the Soviet Union's intentions

reflects the pervasive cold war atmosphere of the 1950s. The Committee stressed that “there is no reliable evidence that the recent changes in the Soviet regime and in Soviet tactics involve any change in the basic Soviet objective of a communist world controlled by the Kremlin,” and went on to state that “in the struggle between the imposed coalition dominated by the Kremlin and the free coalition led by the United States, the latter must base its policies on the assumption that the purpose of the Soviet rulers is world domination and that this purpose will constitute the fundamental motivation of all their actions.” The United States and its allies had to, therefore, “continue to strengthen their military capabilities until it is possible to perceive with clarity that the Soviet Union is unwilling to risk general war, has abandoned its goal of world domination, and will live up to its obligations under the charter of the United Nations.”

One of the Committee’s unclassified recommendations called for the establishment within the National Security Council structure of an Operations Coordinating Board, whose chief function would be to coordinate the formulation by government agencies of detailed operational plans to carry out national security policies. At the same time the Committee recommended that the Psychological Strategy Board, created in 1951, be abolished because that Board had apparently been founded on the notion that psychological activities and strategy existed apart from official policies and actions, a concept repudiated by the Committee. Instead, it assumed that every diplomatic, economic and military action of the United States Government had a psychological aspect or implication. The Committee also idealistically urged that the terms “cold war” and “psychological warfare” be discarded in favor of others which better described the United States’ true goals.

The Committee’s July 8 release discussed the goals and techniques of the United States’ overseas information programs and called for the consolidation of these programs into one service. The result was the establishment of the United States Information Agency in August, 1953. The Committee also pointed out the need for improved guidance and technical controls of programs in individual countries and urged the development of a better understanding of U.S. information programs by the American public.

The original alphabetical subject arrangement of these records has been retained as an Alphabetical Subject Series (Boxes 1-15) along with a small Administrative Series (Box 16) which consists of a file of index cards and a collection of classified document receipts.

Included within the Alphabetical Subject Series is an extensive correspondence file (about 60% of the collection) consisting largely of private and some official letters and proposals. An important category of document appearing throughout this correspondence file is the synopses of summaries of interviews and proposals. These summaries, covering interviews with numerous government officials and private citizens by members of the Committee staff, and written proposals and suggestions received by the Committee, constitute an important source of information on the Committee’s disposition of the myriad ideas and suggestions which the body received and considered.

Another key segment of the Alphabetical Subject Series consists of the file folders labeled “Jackson Committee Numbered Documents” which contain about 35 documents bearing numbers ranging from 0001 to 0102. At least two of the Committee numbered papers were

destroyed or transmitted to another government agency and the gaps in the numbers suggest that many other numbered papers were also not retained. These documents include reports, internal memoranda, summaries of testimony, minutes of one meeting, papers on various topics, and drafts of sections of the Committee report. These numbered papers, all security classified when these records were processed by the Library staff, cover most topics of concern to the Committee, including the U.S. Government's propaganda and psychological warfare activities, cold war policies in general, intelligence, the role of the military in psychological operation and organization of the U.S. Government's national security machinery. Other notable documents found in this series include the classified report by the Committee, a summary of American Ambassadors' evaluations of U.S. information programs, and numerous letters, memos, and charts pertaining to administrative and organizational matters. While the bulk of these records pertain directly or indirectly to the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union, materials concerning other countries and geographic regions can also be found.

The Administrative Series contains a file of index cards to all correspondence received by the Committee from January 26 to the end of May 1953.

When these records were reviewed by a staff archivist, approximately 2,100 pages containing national security information were withdrawn and placed in the Library's security vault. Another 30 pages were closed in accordance with the provisions of President Eisenhower's letter of gift. A smaller number of still photographs, maps and museum objects were removed and transferred to the Library's audiovisual collection, the map collection, and the museum, respectively.

Additional material relating to the President's Committee on International Information Activities can be found in a number of collections in the Library's holdings. These include the following:

1. Jackson, C.D.: Papers, 1931-1967
2. Jackson, C.D.: Records, 1953-54
3. Eisenhower, Dwight D.: Records as President, White House Central Files, Official File, OF 133-M President's Committee on International Information Activities, Boxes 673-674.
4. Records of the President's Committee on International Information Activities Abroad (Sprague Committee)

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box Nos. Series

1-15 I ALPHABETICAL SUBJECT SERIES, 1950-53. 15 containers.

Consists of correspondence, memoranda, summaries of interviews and proposals, numbered committee papers, reports, press clippings and other materials concerning information programs, psychological warfare, Committee functions and organizations.

16 II ADMINISTRATIVE SERIES, 1953. 1 container.

Includes subject index cards to correspondence received by Committee from January 26, to end of May, 1953, and classified document receipts.

## CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	ALPHABETICAL SUBJECT SERIES  Administration - PCIIA (1)-(4)  Ambassadors Evaluate the Information Program  Bearing on Report (1)-(4) [Titoism: organization for cold war strategy; India; movie industry; Guatemala]  Bibliography - PCIIA  Budget  Classified Material Register - PCIIA  Congress  Consultants  Correspondence re PCIIA Report (1)(2)  Correspondence File A - Secret (1)-(6)
2	Correspondence File B - Confidential (1)-(3)  Correspondence File C- Restricted  Correspondence - Record  Correspondence - A (1)-(4) [Iran; Italy; Japan; Radio Free Europe; Egypt]  Correspondence - B (1)-(8) [Turkey; Korea]
3	Correspondence - B (9)-(15) [Turkey; Iran]  Correspondence - C (1)-(9)

- 4 Correspondence - D (1)-(7)  
Correspondence - E (1)-(7) [Middle East]  
Correspondence - F (1)-(4)
- 5 Correspondence - F (5)-(7)  
Correspondence - G (1)-(9) [Radio Free Europe; Bolivia and Chile]  
Correspondence - H (1)-(6) [Indonesia]
- 6 Correspondence - H (7)-(11)  
Correspondence - I  
Correspondence - J (1)-(3) [U.S. military personnel and foreign nationals]  
Correspondence - K (1)-(8) [Germany]  
Correspondence - L (1)-(3) [labor and Italy; Radio Free Europe]
- 7 Correspondence - L (4)-(8)  
Correspondence - M (1)-(11) [OCB organization; analysis of psychological warfare]
- 8 Correspondence - N (1)-(4)  
Correspondence - O (1)(2) [includes interview with J. Robert Oppenheimer]  
Correspondence - P (1)-(7)  
Correspondence - R (1)-(5)
- 9 Correspondence - R (6)-(8)  
Correspondence - S (1)-(13)
- 10 Correspondence - S (14)-(19) [Iran]

- Correspondence - T (1)-(6)
- Correspondence - UV (1)-(3)
- Correspondence - W (1)-(4)
- 11 Correspondence - W (5)-(7)
- Correspondence - XYZ (1)(2) [Daryl Zanuck and motion picture industry]
- Economic Defense Activities
- Economic Warfare
- Establishment of PCIIA
- General Papers [re USSR; US policies; information programs]
- Hickenlooper Subcommittee
- Inter-Staff Memos (Misc.)
- Interviews Before Committee and all Others
- Interviews - Meetings (1)-(8)
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (1) [0001, 0002, 0004, 0005, 0016]
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (2) [0027, 0028]
- 12 J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (3) [0031, 0035]
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (4)(5) [0036]
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (6) [0038, 0039, 0041, and 0051]
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (7) [0053-0056]
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (8) [0058, 0059, 0063]
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (9) [0065, 0069, 0072, 0073]
- J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (10) [0078, 0082, 0083, and 0085]



J[ackson] C[ommittee] [Numbered Documents] (11) [0092, 0093, 0095, 0096, 0101, 0102]

Labor Information in Europe

Lay Letter

Memos From A.W. [Abbott Washburn] to Wm. H. Jackson

Misc. File Material (1)(2) [Latin America; Arab world]

Misc. File Material - A-F (1)-(4)

Misc. File Material - G-L (1)(2)

13 Misc. File Material - G-L (3)-(5)

Misc. File Material - M-P (1)-(6)

Misc. File Material - P

Misc. File Material - P-Z (1)-(5)

Misc. PCIIA Information

Misc. PCIIA Reading Material [Guatemala; Italy]

Mutual Security Agency, Information Program of the

NSC Material (Misc.)

Organization and Flow Charts

14 Overt Information and Propaganda, Data for Jackson Committee on - by International Information Administration (1)-(3)

Patrenotre, Reactions to [proposal for international congress]

Personal (1)-(5)

Petty Cash

The President's Committee on International Information Activities - Report to the President [June 30, 1953]

Press Clippings compiled by Kenneth C. MacDonald (1)-(4)

Press Releases

Press Releases - PCIIA, re Appt. of Wm. Jackson Committee (1)-(3)

15 Press Wireless

“Projects for Increasing U.S. Effectiveness in Working with People of Other Countries” - Donald C. Stone

Psychological Warfare Research

Public Relations Session

Release on Report of Jackson Committee

Reorganization Plan

Rockefeller Committee Report

Security Information [re USSR and UN]

Technical Cooperation Administration Information Program

Weekly Summaries (1)-(5)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SERIES

16 Subject Index Card File [Index to correspondence received by PCIIA from January 26 - May 1953]

Document Receipts [unreviewed and unavailable for research]

END OF CONTAINER LIST