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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Philip J. Corso

From: armen victorian <106105.3217@compuserve.com>
Date: Mon, 10 Mar 1997 11:37:45 -0500
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Subject: Philip J. Corso

The following might be of interest to proponents of Roswell, and those awaiting Corso's forthcoming book on this topic.

"After the assassination [JFK], Frank Capell was active in disseminating conspiratorial "phase one" stories linking Oswald to Russia and Ruby to Castro's Cuba (20 WH 75, 26 WH 608), some of them apparently from intelligence sources such as Carlos Bringuier's colleagues in the DRE (26 WH 610). Capell was not acting alone: "phase one" stories linking Oswald and Ruby to Communists were circulated by Willoughby's associates PHILIP J. CORSO, a veteran of Army Intelligence who had retired by 1963 to work for the segregationist Senator Strom Thurmond, and Cuban exile Salvador Diaz Verson, a former chief of Cuban military intelligence.

Corso, the army intelligence veteran, was like Willoughby a foe of the CIA from the right, having tangled with the Agency in his years under C. D. Jackson as a member of Eisenhower's Operations Control Board. In 1963-64 Corso and Willoughby were part of a secret rightwing group, the "Shickshinny Knights of Malta" (so called after their headquarters in Shickshinny, Pennsylvania, to distinguish them from the more famous Roman Catholic Sovereign Military Order of Malta based in Rome). The group provided a home to dissident retired military officers dissatisfied with the CIA's internationalism, many of them, like Willoughby and General Bonner Fellers, veterans of the old Hunt-MacArthur-Pawley coalition in the early 1950s. By 1963 the group's leading asset in their anti-CIA propaganda was a Polish intelligence defector, Michael Goleniewski, who had claimed to audiences inside and outside the CIA that the Agency penetrated by the KGB at a high level.

Corso built on this anti-CIA paranoia by telling his friend and fellow Senate staffer Julien Sourwine, who made sure it was relayed to the FBI, that Oswald was tied to a Communist ring inside the CIA, and was doubling as an informant for the FBI. Shickshinny Knight Herman Kimsey, who claimed to have been Goleniewski's handler inside the CIA, also spun an elaborate story about how his CIA duties had put him in touch with Kennedy's assassin - the mystery man in Mexico. Finally, the chief press contact of the Shickshinny Knights, Guy Richards of the New York Journal-American, published the claim (soon taken up by Frank Coppel, by the John Birch Society, and by Willoughby's American Security Council) that Oswald, like another alleged KGB assassin (Bogdan Stashynsky), had been trained at a KGB assassination school in Minsk.

Willoughby was in auspicious company, for the Shickshinny Knights had an "Armed Services Committee" that in 1963 read like a Who's Who of retired military men at the extremist fringe. All these "Knights" had been "singled out for their brilliant and outstanding careers as Soldiers of Christ and Advocates of a Free World". Besides Willoughby, they included a number of other members of MacArthur's old team - Brigadier General Bonner Fellers, Lt. General Pedro del Valle, Marine General Lemuel Shepherd. British Admiral Sir Barry Domville, jailed in England during World War Two as a

Nazi agent, was also on the list.

So was Colonel Philip J. Corso, a twenty-year Army Intelligence career man until his retirement in August 1963. He had been the military Operations Coordinating Board's delegate to the CIA group planning the 1954 Guatemalan coup. In 1956 Corso had sought to reactivate fifty surviving garrisons of East European paramilitary units still hanging on in West Germany and tied to the Gehlen spy network. When his Volunteer Freedom Corps, dedicated to rolling back communism, was scuttled as too radical by the Eisenhower administration, Corso attributed the defeat to "lies by our liberal darlings". A staunch foe of what he considered a laissez-faire CIA, Corso testified before Congress on "military muzzling" after General Walker was kicked out of West Germany in 1961. Upon leaving the Army Intelligence, Corso went to work in 1963 as a "research assistant" for segregationist senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. And, after the Kennedy's assassination, Corso was among the first to spread rumors hinting that Oswald was tied to a Communist ring inside the CIA - and doubling as an informant for the FBI. Corso once sued the liberal columnist Drew Pearson for defamation - writing about Corso's extremist activities.

It would be extremely unwise for UFO community researchers to accept Corso's version of the Roswell incident without asking some serious questions on Corso's real intent for such a publication

Armen Victorian

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