

10/14/71

Airtel

To: SACs, Los Angeles [redacted] (Enclosure)
New York [redacted] (Enclosure)
WFO [redacted] (Enclosure)

b3
b7E

From: Director, FBI [redacted]

MC LEX
SIO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-8-82 BY [redacted]

b6
b7C

Enclosed for Los Angeles, New York, and WFO is one copy of portions of the September/October, 1971, issue of the "Columbia Journalism Review." This issue contains articles concerning the publication of the "McNamara Study" by various newspapers in the U.S. Recipients should review the material enclosed for leads.

Los Angeles and WFO note that an article by Jules Witcover of the "Los Angeles Times" on pages 7-15 of the enclosed publication, relates that Ben Haig Bagdikian, assistant managing editor, "The Washington Post," inquired of [redacted] of the Rand Corporation concerning the existence of a Rand Corporation study on the advisability of withdrawal from Vietnam and was told by Rand that there had been no such study. This occurred just prior to the publication by "The New York Times" of portions of the "McNamara Study," that is, prior to 6/13/71. The article went on to relate that on 6/17/71, Bagdikian went to the home of an official of "The Washington Post" carrying 4,400 unbound pages of a document (presumably the "McNamara Study.") The article went on to relate that Bagdikian had a prominent role in the preparation of "The Washington Post" articles on the "McNamara Study."

b6
b7C

b3
b7E

lead K

[redacted]
SEARCHED [initials] INDEXED [initials]
SERIALIZED [initials] FILED [initials]
OCT 15 1971
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE
Rachner

Airtel to Los Angeles et al.

Re: MC LEX

[redacted]

[redacted] has advised that on 6/19/71, [redacted] affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System, attempted to have [redacted] transmit a letter for [redacted]. On the following day [redacted] returned the letter to [redacted] with a note stating she did not know where to locate [redacted]. [redacted] had indicated to [redacted] that it was alright if she read the letter. [redacted] stated that the letter from [redacted] had mentioned, among other things, that she had also been trying to get in touch with Ben Bagdikian but she did not want to break his "cover."

Los Angeles has verified that Bagdikian had been at Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California, from September, 1967, until December, 1969, and during that time had written a book. [redacted]

[redacted] advised on 7/6/71 that on the night prior to the publishing portions of the "McNamara Study" by "The Washington Post" he had talked by telephone with [redacted] who was then [redacted] informed [redacted] that [redacted] had tried to contact [redacted] several days previous. [redacted] offered no further information concerning the matter to [redacted]

In view of the information set out above, Bureau feels that Ben Haig Bagdikian had a significant part in the acquisition of "McNamara Study" by "The Washington Post" and facts suggest the probability he received the study directly from [redacted] or through [redacted]. It would appear that [redacted]

[redacted] may be in a position to shed some light on [redacted] association with [redacted] and possible delivery of portions of the "McNamara Study" to Bagdikian. The files of the Bureau do not contain derogatory information concerning [redacted]

In view of the above, WFO should determine if [redacted] at this time, check indices and if no valid reasons exist to the contrary, should interview her promptly.

Airtel to Los Angeles et al.

Re: MC LSK

b3
b7E

Los Angeles, if not already done, should reinterview [redacted] to clarify contacts made by Bagdikian with [redacted] shortly before the publication of portions of the "McNamara Study" by "The Washington Post." In this connection it will be noted that [redacted] has stated that he attempted to contact Bagdikian but he has not related to this Bureau details of contacts Bagdikian may have made with him [redacted]

b6
b7C