



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

You have requested that I consider whether the claim of state secrets privilege asserted by Attorney General Smith in Frank Wilkinson, et al. v. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, et al., Civil Action No. 80-1048-AWT (Tx) (C.D.Cal.) should be modified in order to permit declassification of some or all sources and methods utilized by the FBI in its investigation of the Communist Party of the United States of America prior to October 5, 1976. After fully considering the matter, I am persuaded that I should adhere to the judgment expressed by Attorney General Smith in asserting the Wilkinson and similar privilege claims that this type of information is properly classified and should be protected as secrets of state.

Edwin Meese III

EDWIN MEESE III
Attorney General

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By AL NARA Date 11/13/09