

'Special Master' Appointed In Socialist Workers Case

A federal judge has appointed Charles D. Breitel, former chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, as "special master" to review confidential FBI files for 18 informants who spied on the Socialist Workers Party.

U.S. District Judge Thomas P. Griesa, in New York City, signed an order naming Breitel yesterday.

Breitels mission is to recommend to the court "representative findings" from the 18 informant files. He also is to provide plaintiffs from the Socialist Workers Party as much information as he can without disclosing the informants' identities.

The party, in a \$40-million lawsuit against the government, sought the 18 informant files as evidence to support its contention that the FBI and other

federal agencies had harassed and disrupted the party for many years.

The Socialist Workers and the government agreed to the appointment of a special master.

Griesa held Attorney General Griffin Bell in civil contempt of court last year for failing to obey an order to turn over the informants' files to lawyers for the workers party.

But last month the U.S. Court of Appeals overturned the contempt citation, instructing Griesa to consider less-stringent sanctions.

Bell had refused to turn over the files on the ground that such an unprecedented action would have undermined confidence in the FBI's ability to protect its informants. The FBI zealously guards the names of informants.