

## Reporter Threatens to Discredit Intelligence Aides

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

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Jacque Srouji, who was dismissed from her job at The Nashville Tennessean May 5 after her history as an F.B.I. informer became known to her publisher, has twice threatened to disclose damaging information about Federal intelligence agents and others if her reputation suffers because of her activities.

In a recent interview, the publisher, John Seigenthaler, recalled that Mrs. Srouji had described herself as "a good record-keeper" over a sporadic, 10-year newspaper career in Nashville. In that time, she also maintained what a House subcommittee termed a "special relationship" with J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### First Detailed Picture

"If my stream of life does become infested with piranhas, and a sacrifice is in order," she wrote in a letter to Mr. Seigenthaler, "then I can certainly take some of Mr. Hoover's finest along for the swim."

In an interview broadcast today by the National Public Radio network, Mrs. Srouji reaffirmed her threat, saying that she could "hurt a lot of people," not only within the

F.B.I., but also in the "Soviet Union as well as other United States agencies."

Published reports in recent months named several journalists who acted as informers or operatives for the F.B.I. and the Central Intelligence Agency, but those familiar with Mrs. Srouji's activities say her case provides the first detailed picture of how such informers operate and of the effect that their dual roles may have on their reporting of the news.

Talks with federal investigators and with Mr. Seigenthaler and others who know her indicate that Jacque Srouji, reporter and editor, was for years an F.B.I. informer in the city rooms of Nashville's newspapers.

Bureau sources have said that in Mr. Hoover's tenure as director, F.B.I. agents were encouraged to develop "confidential informants" in newsgathering organizations.

In some cases, the "informants" were reporters to whom the bureau provided stories that burnished the bureau's image or tarnished that of its enemies.

In other instances, however, the media informers lived up to their names. They sometimes supplied agents with unpublished information picked up in

the course of their work, in some cases they gathered material expressly for the F.B.I. under the guise of reporting a story.

At a news conference after her discharge from The Tennessean, Mrs. Srouji admitted to a hazy relationship with the F.B.I., but denied that she had been an "informant" on the ground that she had never been paid for information.

### Exchange Is Described

Yet by the accounts of those interviewed, Mrs. Srouji reported to the F.B.I. on political radicals, on at least two Tennessean employees with radical background and on a Soviet diplomat who had been identified as an intelligence officer.

In exchange for her cooperation, Mrs. Srouji was reportedly given access to classified documents, was aided in gathering information for a book on nuclear power and provided with news stories, including one about an F.B.I. executive who lower-level agents wished to discredit.

Mr. Seigenthaler said that he had discharged the 32-year-old Mrs. Srouji for having discussed with F.B.I. agents the activities of two Tennessean editors, Dolph Honicker, an outspoken critic of the nuclear power industry, and Jerry

Hornsby, a former member of the Socialist Party, U. S. A.

At her news conference, Mrs. Srouji disputed much of what Mr. Seigenthaler said that she had told him. She denied, for example, that she had been asked to provide to the F.B.I. information about the newspaper or its employees, adding that she would consider volunteering such information "professionally unethical."

Mr. Seigenthaler said that Mrs. Srouji had told him that her relationship with the F.B.I. began shortly after she became a reporter in 1964 for The Nashville Banner, then owned by James G. Stahlman.

Mrs. Srouji joined The Banner as a secretary, but made something of a name for herself covering the radical left and the civil rights movement.

She told Mr. Seigenthaler, he said, that Mr. Stahlman had one day called her into his office and introduced her to an F.B.I. agent who said that the bureau was interested in her reporting.

Introductions to other Federal agents followed. Mrs. Srouji identified one of them as Larry Olson, a member of the bureau's Nashville office who eventually became one of two "control agents" to whom she reported regularly.