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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 7, 2003

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No. 03-21

GPO PROVIDES FIRST-TIME PUBLIC ACCESS TO CLOSED-DOOR McCARTHY HEARINGS FILES RELEASED BY U.S. SENATE

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) is providing public access to the transcripts of closed-door hearings conducted by Senator Joseph McCarthy during 1953-54. Paper copies of the transcripts are available for sale from GPO's sales program. Copies are also being distributed to Federal depository libraries around the Nation for the free use of the public, and the transcripts may be viewed online free of charge via **GPO Access**, GPO's online information service (www.gpoaccess.gov).

The printed transcripts comprise over 4,300 pages of hearings in 5 volumes. They are the proceedings of executive sessions of the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, during which Subcommittee Chairman McCarthy and Members and staff questioned nearly 400 individuals about their alleged involvement in communist activities.

Under the rules of the Senate, the transcripts were deposited in the National Archives and sealed for 50 years, in part to protect the privacy of the many witnesses who testified in closed executive sessions. The seal expired recently and the transcripts were ordered released by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs following preparation by the Senate Historical Office.

More than 175 pages in volume 2 of the transcripts reveal testimony provided during the Subcommittee's investigation of the GPO during August 1953. The Subcommittee alleged that Edward Rothschild, an employee in the binding division, had communist ties and that he had stolen classified documents from the GPO, in spite of testimony from Public Printer Raymond Blattenberger that the GPO's security was not lax and that little classified work was processed there. Rothschild invoked the Fifth Amendment; he was suspended from his job and later discharged from Government service but never prosecuted. Other GPO employees who were identified as under security investigation were transferred to the Library of Congress but were not prosecuted. The hearings failed to disclose any criminal breaches of security in the handling of Government documents at the GPO.

The formal title of the transcripts is *Executive Sessions of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Government Operations, Eighty-Third Congress, First Session, Made Public January 2003*, S. Prt. 107-84 (GPO stock number 052-070-07385-3).

A printed set of all five volumes is available for \$90.00 and can be ordered online by going to <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. Copies can also be ordered by phone toll free at 866-512-1800 (202-512-1800 in the Washington DC area), or by mail to the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. GPO requires payment in advance of shipment by check or money order drawn on any U.S. or Canadian bank in U.S. dollars or by international postal money order. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express Credit Cards are all accepted.

The McCarthy transcripts are available online at www.gpo.gov/congress/senate/senate12cop107.html.

To locate the Federal depository library nearest you, go to www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html.

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