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Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-2002/t
28 July 1978

MAT Jen
E.P.
HSCI

Mr. Michael J. O'Neil, Chief Counsel
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mike:

We discussed briefly the other day the matter of Case-Zablocki Act amendments in the Foreign Relations Authorization bill, H.R. 12598. As I noted to you, the equities we have in these amendments are separate from and have no relationship to matters concerning the general oversight responsibilities of the Intelligence Committee. Specifically, our concerns with the amendments proposed by section 501 of H.R. 12598 as passed by the Senate relate primarily to the following: (1) the serious problems that would arise if oral agreements were to be required to be reduced to writing, and (2) the inappropriateness of requiring that intelligence activities which may be in the purview of the Case-Zablocki Act be approved by the Secretary of State before implementation.

We raised these concerns briefly in a letter from the Deputy Director to Chairman Boland on 1 June 1978. The legislation has now passed both Houses and is awaiting conference. In order to provide you more detail as to our concerns with various provisions in this legislation, I am enclosing short talking points papers on each of these issues, including section 501 of the Senate bill proposing amendments to the Case-Zablocki Act.

I would be glad to answer any questions you might have or to provide any additional information on any or all of these issues if you would like.

Sincerely,

STAT

Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative Counsel

Enclosures

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