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DDI #2849-83
18 April 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Director, Office of External Affairs

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Congressional Relations

1. As I have reported to you separately, my courtesy calls on members of the SSCI and HPSCI have been profoundly depressing as I have found out how little any of the members of the Oversight Committees know about the analysis that we publish -- regardless of format. When you consider that the finished product drawing on collection and analysis is the principal purpose for which this Agency exists, this is a lamentable state of affairs. It also shows the preoccupation of the Oversight Committees with covert action to the exclusion of other Agency activities. 25X1

2. Based on my contacts with these members, I have two proposals that I think would represent good public relations for the Agency with the members of our Oversight Committee and also demonstrate to them our interest both in their being well informed substantively and knowing what we can do. The suggestions are as follows:

-- First, I would propose attaching a DDI officer to the Office of External Affairs whose job would be to work the staffs of the two Oversight Committees from a substantive standpoint. He would in effect be a substantive representative or analytical representative to the Oversight Committees and I would see him getting to know each of the Staff members and on a regular basis bringing to their attention published work by the Agency or the NIC of particular importance, arranging briefings for members and staff, and working with the staff to bring to their attention our work in substantive areas of special interest to their Senator or Representative. For example, those Senators working on import and trade problems could usefully learn from some of our materials on foreign industrial competition, international economics and so forth. We could make sure that a Sam Nunn or others with special defense interests were aware of papers that we were doing in their area.

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I have found the members I have talked to totally uninformed about our analytical product. It may be that working more closely and intensively with the staff will not only better inform them about the Agency's product but also serve the country's interest as well. (I presently have a person working on setting up requested briefings on the Hill but I would propose to put a more hardcharging person in the above proposed position and expand the activity to include a fair amount of time spent on the Hill.) This person would work for [redacted] but would work purely on the substantive support account. 25X1

-- My second proposal is to resume a service we provided until a few years ago. I suggest we offer to the two Committees a 15 - 20 minute current intelligence briefing every week at a set time. I realize that few Senators or Representatives would be likely to attend the briefings but it would be an opportunity to brief the Staffs and whatever members could attend on a regular basis and allow them to ask questions. This kind of educational process, especially on an area like Central America, when detached from the consideration of specific issues by the Committee could provide a valuable underlying appreciation of real developments in areas of concern. I would propose also that at each of these weekly sessions we then give a 10 - 15 minute briefing on an issue that might be of particular interest -- for example, genetic engineering, LDC debt, Soviet strategic missile developments, laser developments, etc., etc. [redacted] 25X1

3. I am willing to provide the two slots for this activity because I think it is important to the Agency and to this Directorate based on the ignorance of the Agency's substantive work I have witnessed over the last several months. I am willing to subordinate the liaison person to the Office of External Affairs, although I do not think that would be necessary for the current intelligence briefer. We should discuss this at your convenience. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Robert M. Gates

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