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ORG 1 Cleveland City Club

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY

GEORGE BUSH

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

AT

CLEVELAND CITY CLUB

25 JUNE 1976

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EXCERPTS

YOU HAVE ALL HEARD AND READ INNUMERABLE CHARGES AND ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE CIA AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. I HOPE THAT YOU DO NOT COME TO BELIEVE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE APPEARED IN PRINT OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN REPEATED SO OFTEN.

MANY OF THE ALLEGATIONS WERE UTTERLY BASELESS. MANY OTHERS WERE BLOWN OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO REALITY. AND IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE MISTAKES AND BAD JUDGMENTS HAD BEEN MADE, THE AGENCY ITSELF HAD MOVED TO CORRECT THEM LONG BEFORE THEY BECAME PUBLIC.

ALL OF THIS PUBLICITY, THE INVESTIGATIONS, THE CHARGES HAVE HAD MANY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES BUT THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ONE IMPORTANT THING. THEY HAVE MADE THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE A PROPER SUBJECT FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THOSE OF US IN INTELLIGENCE THAT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE INTELLIGENCE PROFESSION AND ITS VITAL ROLE IN ENSURING OUR NATION'S SECURITY. THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW THAT CIA IS DEDICATED TO LIVING WITHIN THE LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS OF THIS COUNTRY.

PART OF ASSUMING THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS ACCOMPLISHED BY FACE-TO-FACE TALKS, AS I AM DOING HERE TODAY. ANOTHER PART IS ACCOMPLISHED BY ENSURING THAT THE PEOPLE'S ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS HAVE THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO PERFORM THEIR ROLE OF OVERSEEING THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

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THE CIA AND THE ENTIRE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WELCOME STRONG AND EFFECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO GAIN FROM IT. WE GAIN THE ADVICE AND COUNSEL OF KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBERS. WE GAIN THE ASSURANCE THAT YOU, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IS CLEARLY ACCOUNTABLE TO BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND THE CONGRESS.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THE EXTENT OF THIS ACCOUNTABILITY BY CITING A COUPLE OF FIGURES. I PERSONALLY HAVE APPEARED 28 TIMES BEFORE VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES SINCE I BECAME DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ON JANUARY 30. IN ADDITION TO MY APPEARANCES, DURING THAT SAME TIME OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE AGENCY HAVE BRIEFED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS SOME 65 TIMES. AND, 19 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE VISITED THE AGENCY ON SEVERAL OTHER OCCASIONS FOR BRIEFING SESSIONS.

WE WANT TO COOPERATE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH THE CONGRESS. BUT CONGRESS MUST ALSO DEAL RESPONSIBLY WITH SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. CONGRESS MUST ENSURE THAT OVERSIGHT ENHANCES, RATHER THAN HINDERS, THE VITAL OPERATIONS OF OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

ONE IMPORTANT WAY THE CONGRESS CAN DO THIS IS BY CENTRALIZING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSIGHT OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. THIS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN POINTS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 18. I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS IT AGAIN.

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THE SENATE HAS NOW ESTABLISHED A PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE. IT IS CHAIRED BY SENATOR INOUYE OF HAWAII; SENATOR BAKER OF TENNESSEE IS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN. THIS IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. BUT IT IS NOT CONSOLIDATED OVERSIGHT. I NOW REPORT TO THREE OTHER SENATE COMMITTEES. ALTOGETHER THERE ARE SEVEN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN THE FORMAL OVERSIGHT PROCESS. IN ADDITION, SOME ELEVEN OTHER COMMITTEES OR SUBCOMMITTEES HAVE MADE OVERSIGHT CLAIMS AND BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO SENSITIVE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

THIS RAPIDLY BROADENED ACCESS TO SENSITIVE MATERIAL HAS CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE PAST YEAR'S UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF LEAKS OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. SUCH LEAKS ARE DAMAGING AND CAN HURT AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES FAR INTO THE FUTURE. COMPLEX AND EXPENSIVE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION SYSTEMS CAN BE COUNTERED. DEDICATED AND COURAGEOUS MEN AND WOMEN WHO RISK THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THIS COUNTRY CAN BE EXPOSED AND DESTROYED. AND WE WILL NEVER KNOW HOW MANY POSSIBLE SOURCES OF VALUABLE INFORMATION DID NOT COME FORWARD BECAUSE THEY FEARED THAT WE COULD NOT KEEP THEIR SECRETS.

AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, I AM CHARGED BY FEDERAL STATUTE WITH PROTECTING BOTH THE SOURCES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE AND THE METHODS BY WHICH WE COLLECT INTELLIGENCE.

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I AM DEAD SET AGAINST OVERCLASSIFICATION, AND I AM TAKING STEPS TO SEE THAT ONLY TRUE INTELLIGENCE SECRETS ARE CLASSIFIED. I AM TOTALLY COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT SECRET STAMPS ARE NEVER USED TO HIDE FAILURES OR ABUSES. BUT I AM EVERY BIT AS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT LEAKS, CARELESS TALK, OR A DESIRE FOR A SENSATIONAL HEADLINE DO NOT RESULT IN THE SENSELESS DISCLOSURE OF OUR REAL INTELLIGENCE SECRETS.

I SEEK TO COOPERATE WITH THE CONGRESS TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. I WANT CONGRESS TO BE A CONSUMER OF INTELLIGENCE -- SHARING IN THE FRUITS OF OUR EFFORTS IN ORDER TO BE BETTER ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. CONGRESS MUST ALSO HELP US TO KEEP OUR TRUE INTELLIGENCE SECRETS.

NOW LET ME TURN TO ANOTHER MATTER OF VERY SERIOUS CONCERN TO ME. I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PRESS REGARDING THE AGENCY'S SUPPOSED "SUBVERSION" OF THE PRESS. BECAUSE A FREE PRESS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THIS REPUBLIC, I PARTICULARLY WANT TO BE SURE THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES IS IN ACCORD WITH REALITY, NOT WITH SENSATIONAL HEADLINES.

HISTORICALLY THE CIA HAS HAD RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIVIDUALS IN MANY WALKS OF AMERICAN LIFE. THESE RELATIONSHIPS, MANY OF A VOLUNTARY AND UNPAID NATURE, HAVE REFLECTED THE DESIRE OF AMERICANS TO HELP THEIR COUNTRY. SUCH

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RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITH THE CLEAR INTENT OF FURTHERING THE AGENCY'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE MISSION. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN AIMED AT INFLUENCING OR IMPROPERLY ACTING ON ANY AMERICAN INSTITUTION.

ON FEBRUARY 11 OF THIS YEAR, I ISSUED A POLICY STATEMENT THAT SAID, IN PART: "EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, CIA WILL NOT ENTER INTO ANY PAID OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME NEWS CORRESPONDENT ACCREDITED BY ANY U.S. NEWS SERVICE, NEWSPAPER, PERIODICAL, RADIO OR TELEVISION NETWORK OR STATION. AS SOON AS FEASIBLE, THE AGENCY WILL BRING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIVIDUALS IN THESE GROUPS INTO CONFORMITY WITH THIS NEW POLICY."

I HAD THOUGHT THAT THIS STATEMENT WOULD BE MORE THAN CLEAR, BUT THE MEDIA HAS CONTINUED TO WONDER WHETHER THERE WERE SOME LOOPHOLES LEFT. THE POLICY I SET OUT ON FEBRUARY 11 IN REALITY REPRESENTED A VOLUNTARY LIMITATION ON OUR PART OF PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS. WE DID THIS BECAUSE WE ACCEPT THE GENUINE CONCERN OF THE MEDIA, AND BECAUSE WE, TOO, WISH TO AVOID EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF ANY IMPROPER USE BY THE AGENCY OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR FREE PRESS.

LET ME MAKE THESE ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS WHICH RESPOND TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT MY FEBRUARY 11 POLICY DIRECTIVE. WITH REGARD TO THE WORD "ACCREDITED," WE MEAN ANY FULL OR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES -- INCLUDING STRINGERS -- OF

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AMERICAN OR FOREIGN NATIONALITY WHO ARE FORMALLY AUTHORIZED BY CONTRACT OR BY THE ISSUANCE OF PRESS CREDENTIALS TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES AS CORRESPONDENTS FOR AN AMERICAN NEWS-GATHERING ORGANIZATION OR WHO ARE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED (ACCREDITED) BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO REPRESENT AN AMERICAN NEWS-GATHERING ORGANIZATION.

FURTHER: THE CIA WILL NOT USE FULL-TIME AMERICAN JOURNALISTS OR STRINGERS FOR ANY INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES. I MUST STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION I EMPHASIZED ON FEBRUARY 11 THAT CONTACT IS PERMITTED WITH JOURNALISTS OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO VOLUNTARILY SEEK CONTACT WITH THE AGENCY AT HOME OR ABROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSMITTING ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS INTELLIGENCE OR COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE SECURITY INFORMATION WITHOUT FINANCIAL REMUNERATION OR OTHER FAVOR. MY INTENTION IN CONTINUING TO AUTHORIZE SUCH CONTACTS IS OBVIOUS: IT IS TO PERMIT INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISTS, OR MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER PROFESSION OR GROUP, TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT AS AMERICAN CITIZENS TO REPORT INFORMATION VOLUNTARILY AND WITTINGLY TO THEIR GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE AGENCY. I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT NO ONE SHOULD UNEQUIVOCALLY DENY ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN, INCLUDING JOURNALISTS, THIS RIGHT.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, NEITHER CAN WE BETRAY THE TRUST IMPOSED ON US BY SUCH INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM WE HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS OF CONFIDENTIALITY. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT

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I SIMPLY CANNOT REVEAL THE IDENTITIES OF ANY SOURCES WHO HAVE WORKED WITH US, WHETHER THEY BE JOURNALISTS OR MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER GROUP. THOSE IN A PROFESSION WHOSE MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO GO TO JAIL RATHER THAN REVEAL A SOURCE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE CLEARLY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE LAW TO PROTECT OUR SOURCES. THE PRESIDENT RESTATED AND REEMPHASIZED THAT RESPONSIBILITY IN HIS RECENT EXECUTIVE ORDER.

THE AGENCY RECOGNIZES THE SPECIAL STATUS AFFORDED THE PRESS UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION, AND WE WILL REMAIN COMPLETELY WITHIN THE GUIDELINES I HAVE SET FORTH.

THE PRESS AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BOTH SEEK KNOWLEDGE. CLEARLY, THE ALTERNATIVE TO ACTING ON THE BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE IS ACTING ON THE BASIS OF IGNORANCE. AN INFORMED CITIZENRY AND INFORMED NATIONAL LEADERS ARE ESSENTIAL. AND THAT IS WHY A FREE SOCIETY MUST HAVE A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE PRESS. IT IS ALSO WHY A FREE SOCIETY MUST HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM SECOND TO NONE.

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