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13 OCT 1976

Mr. Ned Schnurman
Associate Director
The National News Council
1 Lincoln Plaza
New York, NY 10023

Dear Mr. Schnurman:

It was good of you to send me the text of the Council's resolution of September 21. As you already know, we had found the exchange of views with you and Bill Rusher informative and constructive; to find that the deliberate conclusions of the Council are not dissimilar gives me much encouragement.

My colleagues join me in thanks and good wishes.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush
Director

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Executive Registry
76-2158/2

The National News Council

ONE LINCOLN PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

(212) 595-9411

STANLEY H. FULD, Chairman
WILLIAM B. ARTHUR, Executive Director
NED SCHNURMAN, Associate Director

October 4, 1976

Honorable George H. Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Director Bush:

The National News Council, at its most recent meeting, unanimously passed a resolution concerning the Central Intelligence Agency and its relationship with American journalists. It is sent to you in view of the meeting Bill Rusher and I had with you and members of your staff in June, and the cooperation we received from the agency in our examination of the issue.

We would be interested in any comments you might want to make concerning the resolution.

Sincerely,

Ned Schnurman

Ned Schnurman
Associate Director

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Enclosure

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CIA Statement

September 21, 1976

For some months, dating back to November, 1975, the National News Council has been examining the relationship of the Central Intelligence Agency to the news community in the United States.

The Council originally urged in November that the then CIA Director, William Colby, issue an order to end the employment of journalists by the agency and to make that order public. In February of 1976 the new CIA Director George Bush did issue an order stating that the CIA would not enter into a contractual relationship with "any full-time or part-time news correspondents accredited by any United States news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network or station."

Following expressions of concern by news organizations that the CIA directive did not clearly spell out whether the agency intended to phase itself out of relationships with American newsmen and also to implement its original resolution, the Council requested that a meeting be held between representatives of the CIA and the Council.

Such a meeting was held in June, 1976. At this meeting the CIA offered unequivocal assurance that no American journalist would be hired in the future by the agency and that the agency's existing ties with such journalists would be phased out as soon as

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possible.

To conclude, then, the National News Council accepts the assurances of the Central Intelligence Agency that it has decided, as a matter of policy, to end the employment of American newsmen, and that all remaining instances of such employment will in fact cease within a reasonable time. In the circumstances, we think it is appropriate to commend the CIA for its decision, and to thank it for its cooperation in our investigation thereof.

We specifically note that the CIA has not given such assurances with respect to foreign newsmen, nor has the Council expressed any opinion concerning this practice.

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