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CLL #84-1787
7 May 84

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Intelligence
General Counsel
Comptroller

FROM: Clair E. George
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: SSCI Proposals Concerning Actions to Improve Committee Oversight of CIA Covert Action Activities

1. Attached at Tab A are the suggested proposals prepared by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) staff to improve the Committee's oversight of CIA covert action activities. Section A of the attached paper addresses improvements that could be made in CIA reporting procedures for covert action operations. These procedures are almost identical in substance to the improvements which we suggested and provided to the Committee at the hearing on this subject on Thursday, 3 May (attached at Tab B).

2. Section B includes two additional proposals for covert action reporting concerning notice of the apportionment of funds for such programs and for obtaining separate Presidential Findings for new significant actions which arguably are still within the scope of an existing Finding. The Committee considered these two proposals at the hearing on Thursday, but decided, at least initially, that neither of these proposals was necessary or should be implemented.

3. With respect to Section C which primarily addresses the internal workings of the SSCI, the Committee, in particular Senator Chafee, has requested that the Agency review these suggested internal Committee procedures and provide its input as to how the Committee could be better organized and briefed on covert action programs. For this reason, I would appreciate your review of Section C of the attached memorandum and any suggestions or comments you may have as to how the Committee itself may improve its functioning and organization with respect to oversight of covert action programs.

/s/
Clair E. George

Attachments

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO IMPROVE

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT OF CIA ACTIVITIES

The Senate Intelligence Committee's oversight of CIA activities can be improved at several levels. These include the following:

A. & B. CIA reporting procedures for covert action

C. Committee efforts to gain further information

D. Committee records maintenance

E. Functioning of the Covert Action staff compartment

F. Committee staff organization

G. Committee organization

H. Other "significant anticipated intelligence activities."

This memorandum summarizes possible actions in each area that have been suggested by members, staff, and CIA officials. Crucial decision points for the Committee are underlined. The proposals in Part A have been discussed with CIA officials and recommended to DCI Casey by the Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison.

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A. CIA REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR COVERT ACTION

Based on a meeting between Committee staff and CIA representatives, the following proposals have been developed for submission to the Committee. Essentially similar proposals are being submitted by CIA representatives to Director Casey. The Deputy Director of CIA's Office of Legislative Liaison may be prepared to present the CIA's version at the Committee meeting.

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