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6 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of President Ford
Friday, 6 February 1976

The meeting took place in the Oval Office at the White House, with the President, Brent Scowcroft and the DCI present. This was the first of what is supposed to be regularly scheduled, once-a-week meetings with the DCI. The President read the briefs. He asked what the flap was on our delivery of the NID to the Hill. I told him that the State Department felt we had given too much information and that Colby, before he left, sent a letter saying we would not deliver this any more. Scowcroft seemed willing to compromise. We showed him the Congressional Checklist, and the President thought that was pretty good. I told him we were reviewing the matter, and we might have to knuckle under. The President didn't seem too concerned about that.

I brought up the [REDACTED] and there was no real discussion on that matter. Scowcroft said that they were following up, [REDACTED]

I filled the President in on my visit to New York with CBS and the New York Times. I told him I was concerned about the newsman question, that it wouldn't go away, and that we might have to take action. The President did not seem to encourage me in suggesting we cut off our contact with newsmen. In fact, my gut feeling is that there may be some resistance there, but I am not sure of it. I told him that I wanted to know whether it was a real asset and that we might have to make the judgment that we would have to give up the asset in order to get fair treatment and fair attention from the press. I told him that the press felt

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that their own sources abroad were drying up because of the suspicion that they were CIA people. Scowcroft was not impressed with this argument, I don't think. Neither took the position that we should not change the policy, but I didn't get the feeling that either was particularly interested in seeing our change it.

After the meeting, I mentioned to Scowcroft the Shadren matter, and he said that he had talked to the woman and he thought the matter was very fuzzy and very weird. I told him that Mrs. Howe had told General Walters that she wouldn't go public and that she had appreciated Scowcroft's call and apparently appreciated my call through General Walters as well.

George Bush
Director

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