DATE: 24 May

ITEM: NO.24

REF : NO.

DISTRIBUTION:

DCI
DDCI   UPI155
DCI/IC   (CIA)
DDI   WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CIA OFFICIALS TESTIFIED WEDNESDAY THEY FORGOT
DD/M&S   TO TELL CONGRESS OR THE AGENCY'S DIRECTOR, JAMES SCHLESINGER, ABOUT
DDO (2   ANONYMOUS WARNINGS THEY RECEIVED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS TRYING TO
DDS/T   PIN BLAME ON THE AGENCY FOR THE WATERGATE SCANDAL.
D/OCI   REP. LUCIEN NEDZI, D-MICH., CALLED THREE OFFICIALS OF THE CIA TO
ONE   EXPLAIN WHY THE LETTERS -- WHICH HAVE BEEN TRACED TO WATERGATE
OSR   CONSPIRATOR JAMES MCCORD -- DID NOT SURFACE UNTIL TWO DAYS AGO.
OSI (2   "ONE OF THE REASONS THEY GAVE WAS THE FAMILIAR 'I FORGOT,'" NEDZI
Ch/Ops SAID. "THEY ALSO SAID IT WAS A MATTER OF TURNING IT OVER TO SOMEONE
PDB   ELSE AND ASSUMING HE WOULD PASS IT ON."
INDICO   THE SIX LETTERS -- ONE OF THEM SIGNED "JIM" AND THE OTHERS
DDO/DO   ANONYMOUS -- WERE SENT TO FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS BETWEEN
I   JULY 1972 AND LAST JANUARY.
CA   NEDZI SAID IT HAD BEEN "PRETTY DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED" THAT
OSD   MCCORD, A FORMER CIA AGENT, WAS THE AUTHOR OF ALL THE LETTERS. NEDZI
  mea   DECLINED TO SAY WHAT WAS IN THEM, BUT REP. WILLIAM BRAY, R-IND., SAID
  fe   THEY WERE "CONFUSED" AND "DISJOINTED" WARNINGS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE
  wh   WAS TRYING TO MAKE THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN AS A CIA PLOT.
  eur   BOTH NEDZI AND BRAY SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT CIA WAS IN ANY
         WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN.
            TESTIFYING AT THE SESSION WERE PAUL GAYNOR, HOWARD OSBORNE AND
huermer WILLIAM BRAUX, TOP CIA OFFICIALS WHO HAD CUSTODY OF THE MCCORD
egco   LETTERS AT VARIOUS STAGES AFTER THEY WERE SENT.
ouston   NEDZI INITIALLY SPELLED BRAUX'S NAME AS BROE AND SAID HE DID NOT
sborne   KNOW IF IT WAS THE SAME MAN WHO TOLD THE SENATE COMMITTEE ABOUT
roe   MEETINGS HE HAD WITH ITT PRESIDENT HAROLD GENEEN TO DISCUSS THE
aynor   CREATION OF INTERNAL ECONOMIC STRIFE IN CHILE.
            UPI 05-24 05:12 PED

Comment:

00392

*These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of
the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the
news services.*