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OLC 71-1179

8 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Senator Stennis Re
Implications of the White House Announcement on
the Intelligence Community

1. Today the Director received a phone call from Senator Stennis, who noted that their conversation on 5 November had been interrupted and the Senator had not had the opportunity to discuss the above subject thoroughly. The Senator went on to say he was concerned over the possibility of the Director's relinquishing his direction of CIA in order to assume a greater role in overseeing the community. The Director replied that in fact all DCIs have worn two hats, and he had no intention of giving up his authority over the Agency. He said he understood the President's purpose was simply to make things run a little smoother in the community, and particularly, to have the Director sit astride the budget process in order to achieve some much needed economy. The Senator said he found this reassuring. The Director said if he couldn't run CIA and at the same time accomplish the President's objectives regarding the community, he would either ask for help or quit the job. He said his main purpose in assuming the additional responsibility was to try to help Senators Stennis and Ellender in getting a better hold on the community budget.

2. The Director told Senator Stennis that, as he had suggested, the Director had called on Senator Margaret Chase Smith and had a pleasant chat with her.

3. The Director again emphasized to the Senator that his main purpose was going to be to get a better hold on the community budget, and he asked the Senator to let him know if he found things were not going satisfactorily. The Senator replied he thought the Director had the right attitude on the matter. The Senator said he just received a thick letter "from my friend who sits on my right" [redacted] who was "greatly disturbed over the announcement." The Senator said he would take this matter up when he had a chance.

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Distribution:

- Original - Subject
- 1 - Stennis
- 1 - Smith

[redacted] JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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MDR/CDF