

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 11, 1965
FROM THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

In response to a number of inquiries regarding its stand with respect to the Otepka case, the Internal Security Subcommittee today made public the text of a letter to the Secretary of State signed by all Subcommittee members in October 1963. In releasing the letter, Senator James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) declared: "We all still feel the same way and I see no prospect at all that the Committee will change its position with respect to this matter."

The letter is as follows:

October 31, 1963

The Honorable Dean Rusk
The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Mr. Otto Otepka, Chief of the Division of Evaluations, Office of Security, Department of State, today faces grave charges apparently growing out of his appearance as a witness before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and his honesty in responding to the Subcommittee's questions.

Without attempting to pass upon these charges, we want to express our confidence in Mr. Otepka's integrity, capability, and professional skill.

A committee of the Senate has a right to the testimony of any official or employee of our Government respecting any question of security or possible wrongdoing in any department or agency, if the subject matter of the committee's inquiry falls within its jurisdiction. A Government employee who comes before a Senate committee and testifies truthfully should not thereafter be penalized or disciplined in any way for doing so.

Continued

Mr. Otepka's testimony has been a valuable contribution to the Internal Security Subcommittee's current investigation of security in the State Department, and we feel he has performed a substantial service for his country. We would consider it a great tragedy if the services of this exceptionally able and experienced security officer were lost to the United States Government on the basis of alleged technical violations growing out of his cooperation with the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

JAMES O. EASTLAND, Chairman
Internal Security Subcommittee

THOMAS J. DODD, Vice Chairman

ROMAN L. HRUSKA

OLIN D. JOHNSTON

EVERETT McKINLEY DIRKSEN

JOHN L. McCLELLAN

KENNETH B. KEATING

SAM J. ERVIN, JR.

HUGH SCOTT