

Executive Registry
76-3653
DD/A Registry
76-5095

8 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
 Legislative Counsel  
 Assistant to the DCI

SUBJECT: Declassification of Testimony Given in  
 Executive Session

1. I am aware that committees of the Congress rarely request the declassification of testimony given by Agency representatives in executive session. In fact, it appears that the only committee which regularly asks for such declassification is the Joint Economic Committee, which was involved in this week's flap over the release of certain of our past statements on Backfire. It is a normal procedure for this Committee to request sanitization of testimony we provide to them on the state of the Soviet and Chinese economies, but this testimony is normally given only on an annual basis.

2. Even though the problem of declassifying executive session testimony may arise infrequently, I would like to establish certain procedures for addressing it in the future. We must avoid a repetition of this week's incident. Therefore, I want DDI to continue to conduct the original screening and sanitization of material, as it does now, to ensure the protection of sources and methods information and other sensitive data. DDI's findings will then be reviewed by the A/DCI, who will advise me regarding the probable public impact of the testimony and what other executive branch offices should be notified prior to its release. I will be responsible for final release, in consultation with the DCI.

75/ E. H. Knoche

E. H. Knoche  
 Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

DDA Distribution:  
 1 - D/Sec  
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E-2 IMPDET  
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SECRET

OS 64528

**ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

SUBJECT: (Optional) Declassification of Testimony Given in Executive Session

**DD/A Registry**  
**File** *Security-2*

FROM: Michael J. Malanick  
A/DDA

EXTENSION NO. *DDA 76-5332*  
DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE  
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OFFICER'S INITIALS  
COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDCI  
7D-6011

Hank,  
  
The procedures you established for declassifying executive session testimony will add a great deal to protecting sources and methods and other sensitive material. As a thought, you may wish to remind those in the Agency involved in the new procedure that EO 11652 is still the gospel for declassification and that our new procedure is only a supporting supplement to it.

*13/ Mike*  
Mike

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Distribution:  
Orig. - DDCI  
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ORIGINATOR: [REDACTED]  
Acting D/Security

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