

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

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22 July 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General William E. Odom
Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence
Department of the Army

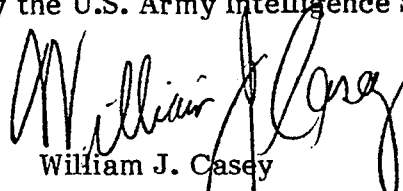
SUBJECT: Comments on Proposed United States Army Intelligence Support Activity (USAISA) Charter

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum of 8 July 1982: Subject, USAISA Charter

1. I appreciated the opportunity to review the proposed charter for the Army's Intelligence Support Activity.

2. As you know, special activities and intelligence activities conducted by various departments and agencies abroad need to be carefully coordinated—particularly in peacetime—to ensure that they are effective, mutually supporting, and consistent with U.S. policy objectives. The President and the Congress clearly intend that this be done and have placed the responsibility for peacetime special activities and the coordination of clandestine intelligence activities abroad in my hands. I do not believe that it is in the national interest to have peacetime special activities, which require extraordinary security protection and a highly specialized support apparatus, conducted by agencies other than the Central Intelligence Agency. To do so would be inefficient and could run unnecessary operational risks. There may be a need for the military services to increase their clandestine intelligence collection activities abroad and to prepare standby capabilities for wartime support to military operations and planning, but this needs to be carefully and fully coordinated with the clandestine activities of the Central Intelligence Agency at every step of the way. These reservations are shared by the various Congressional committees that have reviewed your proposal.

3. With these qualifications, I support your proposal to establish an Army clandestine intelligence organization. Attached are specific changes to the draft USAISA charter that I believe reflect both Congressional and my concern about coordination of intelligence activities conducted by the U.S. Army Intelligence Support Activity.


William J. Casey

Attachment

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