

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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21 JUL 1983

The Honorable George P. Shultz
The Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear George:

Unauthorized disclosures of classified information are destroying our intelligence assets and impairing our national security. Since the National Security Act of 1947 requires me to protect intelligence sources and methods, I am doing all in my power to stop the breakdown in security discipline. I ask for your help.

I am sending a letter to your Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs asking for assistance in defending against unauthorized disclosures and for early warnings of potentially damaging media stories or broadcasts. Specifically, the letter makes the following points:

°CIA's Public Affairs Office is prepared to assist responsible media contacts on stories concerning intelligence topics. The premise here is that there are journalists covering national security, foreign policy and defense issues who, as responsible citizens, are willing to protect intelligence sources and methods when concerns are flagged to their attention.

°When Intelligence Community Public Affairs officers learn of an imminent media story which could jeopardize intelligence assets, they are to inform CIA's Public Affairs Office immediately. I can then consider how to respond in order to protect sources or to limit the national security damage.

I also intend to invite your Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and any other officials from your organization you designate to a meeting at the CIA Headquarters very soon, a meeting to convey thoughts on the unauthorized disclosure problem and, at the same time, solicit views on ways to combat this threat.

DCI
EXEC
REG

George P. Shultz⁴, Secretary of State

I appreciate your assistance and look forward to meeting with your people to discuss this subject in further detail.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey