

I believe the proposal for a counterintelligence vulnerability survey of confidential United States Government activities abroad has some merit. However, the proposed language in H.R. 2419, Section 402, lacks specificity. The scope of the inquiry requires further definition, both in terms of the U.S. activities to be covered and in terms of the security and counterintelligence disciplines to be reported on.

Additionally, the Secretary of State has had an advisory panel, headed by Admiral Bobby Inman, conducting a review of overseas security for the past year. I understand the report is due this summer. It would be advisable to await the results of that effort to see if it is responsive to what you are seeking.

The task, as proposed, represents an extremely large undertaking. There are some 20 countries which are considered to have a hostile environment, plus another 21 with communist intelligence service ties. To conduct a vulnerability survey of that proportion would not be feasible within the time allocated and, as noted, may be duplicative of Admiral Inman's review. I suggest we await publication of Admiral Inman's report and that a more nearly precise definition of what is desired be formulated. We can then determine what is to be done, how it is to be done, and, since such a survey would impact on the interest of a number of agencies, who should be tasked to carry it out.

[I would be happy to have representatives of my staff meet with your staff to discuss this further. Admiral E. A. Burkhalter, D/ICS, is my point of contact.]

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7 JUN