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TS 202154

Copy 14 of 15

23 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of the Full Senate Armed Services  
Committee - 23 November 1971

1. The Director briefed the full Senate Armed Services Committee on 23 November 1971. The meeting lasted from 1010 hours to 1230 hours. A technical sweep of the room, 212 Old Senate Office Building, was conducted and the room was kept under technical monitoring throughout. Discussions included SI and TKH material. No transcript was taken.

2. Present for all or part of the session were:

John Stennis (D., Miss.), Chairman  
Stuart Symington (D., Mo.)  
Howard W. Cannon (D., Nev.)  
Thomas J. McIntyre (D., N.H.)  
Harry F. Byrd (I, Va.)  
Margaret Chase Smith (R., Me.)  
Strom Thurmond (R., S. C.)  
Peter H. Dominick (R., Colo.)  
Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.)  
Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.)  
William B. Saxbe (R., Ohio)

3. Present from the Committee staff was:

T. Edward Braswell, Chief Counsel and Staff Director

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4. Accompanying the Director were:

Carl Duckett, DDS&T  
Bruce Clarke, D/OSR

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John M. Maury, Legislative Counsel

5. The Chairman opened the meeting by recalling that the Director had given a similar world roundup briefing to the Committee early in the session, and he felt that another such briefing would be useful as the session drew to an end. He remarked that because of pressing matters on the floor there might be interruptions, and he would like the Director to cover his material as quickly as possible.

6. The Director proceeded to cover material from his prepared text (on file in OLC) dealing with Soviet strategic forces, Chinese military developments, Sino/Soviet relations, Middle East, India/Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and (in response to a question) the Chinese political situation.

7. Following the Director's prepared remarks, the Chairman commented that he had an understanding with the Director that any member could, at any time, call on the Director for a private briefing on situations in various parts of the world.

8. In response to questions from the Chairman, the Director then commented on the recent demonstrations in [REDACTED] and the strength and effectiveness of the South Vietnamese armed forces. The Chairman also inquired about recent events in Thailand, to which the Director responded that the same leaders were now in control and no changes in Thai foreign policy were expected.

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10. Senator Cannon asked several questions about the security situation on [REDACTED] the Chinese military forces along the Soviet border, and the Chinese nuclear and strategic missile capabilities.

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11. The Chairman then commented that he would have to leave for the floor, but before doing so wished to make a statement and had hoped Senator Symington would be present since he and Symington had discussed the matter which he wished to comment on. He referred to the White House announcement regarding the intelligence community and called attention to the National Security Act of 1947. He noted that the Director had, in accordance with his responsibilities under this Act, always "worn two hats"--one as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the other as Chairman of the U.S. Intelligence Board, in which capacity he had coordinated the work of the other U.S. intelligence agencies. He said the Committee had approved Mr. Helms as the Director--not anyone else--on the assumption that he would be in full charge of the CIA, subject only to the authority of the President. At this point Senator Symington returned to the room and the Chairman repeated his above points, adding that the Committee planned a full review of the intelligence community. He said he felt that the new arrangements announced in the White House release should be spelled out in an Executive Order. He added that he had not been consulted in advance regarding the "new plan" and that Senator Smith, the Ranking Minority Member, could speak for herself as to whether she had been consulted in advance. He added that he wished members of the Committee had been consulted.

12. The Chairman then asked the Director "to what extent, if any, does the new plan change your direction of CIA?" The Director responded "not at all" adding that he still had the same desk, same responsibilities and planned to carry on work in the same way. He said he could not abrogate these responsibilities and that the new arrangements actually consisted of only two points affecting his work: he had been asked to devote closer attention to the affairs of the intelligence community, and he had been given one specific new duty--that of preparing a consolidated intelligence program budget for the community. He added that he had not been consulted in advance about the new plan, but he had been asked his views on a proposal that the chief of the intelligence community sit in the White House, separated from any of the working agencies. He said he strongly opposed this, arguing that in such a position the chief would "have no troops," be just another member of the White House staff, and be unable to argue issues with the various intelligence agencies on their merits since the agencies would have all the facts and expertise. Senator Symington commented that he

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was seriously concerned over the new plan and proposed to raise the matter on the floor this afternoon. He went on to say he would like to hear more about the European situation at an early briefing, and then asked some questions about the Arab/Israeli situation.

13. Senator Symington then asked the Director if the CIA had a budget and to whom it was submitted. The Director said he did have a budget and he submitted it to the Office of Management and Budget. Senator Symington asked if the Director was familiar with the budgets of the other intelligence agencies, and the Director said not in detail. Senator Symington quoted figures from the recent Newsweek article which the Director said were not accurate. Senator Symington said that he had been unable to get figures that were accurate and that neither the Congress, nor members of the Armed Services Committee, had access to these figures. Senator Symington then quoted from a report issued earlier this month by the House Appropriations Committee criticizing the excessive spending, waste and duplication by the intelligence agencies. He asked the Director how he would cut the budgets of the other agencies. The Director said this was a controversial question but it was one of the things that the new arrangements were designed to accomplish.

14. Senator Symington recalled the years he had spent in the Executive Branch of the Government and said he had seen firsthand the influence of the military on intelligence estimates. He said this was no reflection on the present Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, but he was deeply concerned that while the Director was busy "coordinating with the community" the military would gain an excessive influence in the preparation of National Estimates. The Director replied that none of the changes called for in the Presidential announcement would have any impact on the content of National Estimates, and pointed out that the National Security Council Intelligence Committee was not concerned with the substance of estimates, but rather with ensuring that National Estimates covered the subject matter in which the policymakers were interested.

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15. Senator Tower asked some questions regarding the Chinese leadership situation following the demise of Lin Piao, and said he would like to have a detailed briefing on the internal situation in China at an early date, which the Director said we would be glad to arrange. Senator Tower also expressed interest in the internal situation in Thailand.

16. Following his questions along the above lines, Senator Tower commented he thought the Director was doing a "splendid job."

17. Senator McIntyre quoted from a New York Times story of 7 November regarding the National Security Council Intelligence Committee, and expressed concern over whether the new arrangements threatened the independence of CIA. The Director replied the new Committee was intended to fill a much needed gap by providing guidance on what the policymakers needed in the way of intelligence support, but would have no voice in what the intelligence estimates actually said. The Director said he deeply believed in the present system, which, he felt, ensured the independence of the CIA and the intelligence process, and that if this system were changed, he would not want to continue in his present position.

25X1A 18. Senator Dominick expressed an interest in the Soviet satellite and anti-satellite programs, and the Director explained that the Soviets had indeed been perfecting an anti-satellite system which could result in an operational capability if they chose to pursue it. Senator Dominick also expressed interest in the [REDACTED] and inquired about whether the Soviets appeared to plan a preemptive attack on China. The Director said we saw no such evidence, but probably would get some advance warning if this were in the cards.

19. Senator Schweiker inquired about who in the Chinese hierarchy would be next in line after Chou En-lai. The Director said this was one of the most difficult questions facing us. Senator Schweiker also asked several questions about the India/Pakistan situation and the Middle East.

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20. Senator Dominick was interested in the status of Soviet efforts to gain base rights in India and the Indian Ocean which, as the Director explained, were continuing but had not yet been entirely successful.

21. In closing, Senator Stennis said he had several additional questions which he would submit in writing. He commented that the briefing had been extremely valuable and he hoped henceforth that four such briefings could be arranged for each session.

22. Following the briefing, Senator Dominick said he would like to be included in the private briefing requested by Senator Tower on the internal Chinese situation.

23. Follow up action:

a. Obtain and prepare replies to follow up questions from Chairman Stennis.

b. Arrange for private briefing of Senators Dominick and Tower on the internal Chinese situation.



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JOHN M. MAURY  
Legislative Counsel


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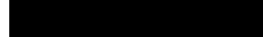
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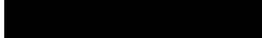
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