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Record

24 October 1985
OLL 85-3345

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Review of SSCI Staff Reports on the Philippines

1. At 1800 hours on 23 October, SSCI Staff Director McMahon phoned this office and told [] that the SSCI had a staff study on the Philippines that the Agency had to review by noon on 24 October. [] made arrangements to bring the paper to the Agency; it was actually two versions of the same paper--a Top Secret Codeword document and a second version that purported to be unclassified, but which the Committee wanted us to review for protection of intelligence sources and methods. []

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2. At 0830 on 24 October we began reproducing copies and circulated the document to the ADDI, [] Director, Office of East Asian Analysis in the DI, and [] The NIO, his Assistant, all of the principal DI Philippine analysts and [] were at a two-day conference at Airlie House. This cut down on the number of copies we had to circulate, but precluded any in-depth substantive review of the papers. []

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3. I spoke with SSCI Staff Director McMahon at about 1400 and told him he had set us a nearly impossible task--particularly with the absence of most of the key substantive players. He was completely unyielding, said "Chuck" promised comments by at least 1400, and that we had to perform. I erroneously assumed "Chuck" to be D/OLL and turned up the heat [] It was actually [] who, in fact, had not "promised" anything. []

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4. By dint of great effort and a lot of pressure from this Office, [] I gave the [] comments to Marvin Ott of the SSCI staff via the secure line at that time. I expressed our great concern at the haste with which we had been forced to respond, said that our review was only for the protection of sources and methods and did not in any way constitute Agency approval for declassifying the document, nor did it indicate our agreement with its substance []

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nor concurrence in its release. I also urged him to be sure that State, DoD, NSA, and the NSC had an opportunity to comment on the paper--and in fact copies of the paper were sent (at least by us) to State. Mr. Ott assured me that the Committee understood our caveats, greatly appreciated our efforts, and that he would ensure the Members were aware of the circumstances under which our comments were made. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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LD/OLL: [redacted] (30 Oct 85)

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