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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: My appearance before your

Committee this morning is in support of Section 202 of the proposed National Security Action of 1947. This section of the bill provides the United States, for the first time in our history, with a central intelligence service created by act of Congress. [The O.S.S. — which was in some measure a move toward the centralization of intelligence — was an emergency creation of the war and came to an end shortly after the fighting ceased.] The Central Intelligence Group, which I have the privilege of heading, has been in existence since January 1946, by authority of an Executive Directive of the President.

Since the day that the Central Intelligence Group was established, the Directors of Central Intelligence — my predecessor and I — have looked forward to the time when we could come before the Congress, and request that we be given permanent status thru legislative enactment. That day has arrived. I sincerely urge adoption of this section of the bill. The United States must have an intelligence service second to none. It must never again be stunned by surprise attack. To assure against such disaster, we must have full knowledge of the intentions and capabilities of the other nations and explosive areas of the world.

I know that you gentlemen understand that the nature of the intelligence work we are doing makes it impossible for me to talk freely on the record