

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *def*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 14, 1975 *gpc*

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *BS*  
SUBJECT: Recommendations of Admiral Anderson  
Concerning the White House Role in the  
Intelligence Investigations

In the letter at Tab A, Admiral Anderson, Chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, reports the concern of Board members that the on-going investigations "may inappropriately engage the Director of Central Intelligence and the intelligence community as spokesmen for the Executive and as interpreters of the National Security Act of 1947." He also believes that the investigations pose the risk of public revelation of sensitive intelligence programs which could jeopardize future collection efforts. To guard against these risks the Admiral recommends that a small White House element be established to serve as a focal point for the examination of legal and security issues with respect to both past activities and proposed legislation, and also to coordinate public relations policy.

The Admiral's comments are thoughtful and constructive. In the months ahead it will be difficult, in the face of strong criticism, to maintain a strong intelligence system. It will be very important that legitimate intelligence activities in support of national security and foreign policy objectives be forthrightly defended.

Since the investigations began, I have kept in close touch with Director Colby concerning his participation in the hearings to include preliminary review of his testimony. In addition, the Director and I have met with Philip Buchen to consider how best to respond to the Committees' inquiries while safeguarding the integrity of our institutions. I believe this informal coordination is working well. In addition, Phil intends to recruit someone who can devote full time to the legal aspects and coordination of agency activities in response to the investigation. We intend to continue our efforts to monitor the Committees' activities

NSS Review Completed

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Executive branch testimony. Should a more formal mechanism appear necessary in the future, a recommendation will be forwarded for your consideration.

I have expressed appreciation in your behalf to Admiral Anderson for his letter and suggestions. No further action is required at this time.

Attachment

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

12 February 1975

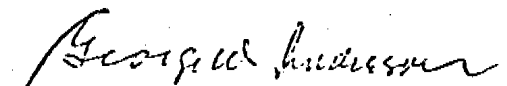
Dear Mr. President:

At its February meeting, your Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board focused on the crisis of confidence which threatens to envelop the intelligence community. In this connection, we met with Director of Central Intelligence Colby and with your Counsel, Mr. Buchen.

We believe that there is an informal consensus which perceives that the central issue must be how to maintain a strong intelligence community and improve its product, while at the same time assuring the nation that there is adequate control and oversight. Yet the investigations of the intelligence community will be prolonged; they will involve complex legal and interpretive issues, and may inappropriately engage the DCI and the intelligence community as spokesmen for the Executive and as interpreters of the National Security Act of 1947. With all of this is the danger that public revelation of sensitive intelligence programs could seriously jeopardize future collection.

In the belief that you, Mr. President, may have to play a role in resolving some of these issues, we strongly recommend the establishment of a small White House element, to serve as a focal point at the policy level for the examination of legal and security issues with respect to both past activities and proposed legislation governing the intelligence community. This element might also serve to coordinate public relations policy but, perhaps most importantly, it would be available to provide you with an independent source of legal research and judgment on national security issues as they unfold in the course of the pending investigations.

Respectfully yours,

  
George W. Anderson, Jr.  
Admiral, USN (Ret.)  
Chairman

The President

The White House  
Washington, D. C.

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<sup>14</sup>  
February 20, 1975

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FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

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Concerning the White House Role in the  
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