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CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

June 1957

I. Appropriations Hearings

1. Although we had of course indicated our readiness, we were not called for hearings on our FY/1958 budget prior to House action on the appropriation bill in which it was buried. Our full request, however, was included in the amount passed.

early oversight

2. We did however have an 'after-the-fact' hearing with the House Appropriations Subcommittee on 28 June. Chairman Cannon and Messrs. Taber, Mahon and Sheppard were present, the only missing member being Wigglesworth. It was a long session, devoted mainly to a discussion of our substantive operations around the world. There was little detailed discussion on the specific items in our budget.

6/28/57 briefing

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3. One significant aspect of the hearing was a suggestion by Chairman Cannon that we should, in the future, hold hearings with a stenographer present, and be prepared to publish an edited transcript, as is customary with other agencies. The Director gave a number of reasons why this was in many ways a dangerous procedure, and he received some support from Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Taber. It is not clear whether Mr. Cannon intends to pursue this matter further, but we are planning to give some thought to ways and means of arriving at a solution which would solve the Committee's problem and at the same time protect our security. Mr. Cannon stated that his proposed new procedure was for the purpose of giving the Committee some basis for assuring their colleagues in the House that they had actually gone into details of the CIA budget justification.

minor savable over recording mtgs.

4. Another significant development was the handing out by Mr. Sheppard, with the concurrence of the Chairman, of a list of 48 written questions covering budget details, substantive operational questions, etc, with the request that written answers be prepared and furnished to the Committee. We are now at work on answers to these questions, and the Director has not yet made a final decision as to how he wants to handle the transmittal problem. The answers to some of these questions involve highly sensitive information.

new list written queries

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5. The Senate has now also acted on the appropriations in which the CIA request was included, and here again we have not been called up by our Subcommittee as yet, despite the fact that we had advised the Committee that we were ready to testify at any time. There has been no stated explanation for this unusual state of affairs, but it is probable that it was simply the result of pre-occupation by the Committees with other larger and more controversial items.

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6. Probably for the same reason, we have not been asked to appear again before our Subcommittees of the Armed Services Committees, although we had actually requested further hearings. Chairman Vinson indicated to the Director on 1 July that he would probably call us up "next week." The Senate Committee has not indicated any intention of having us up again. Senator Russell, the Chairman, will of course be deeply involved in the Civil Rights debate, and Senators Byrd, Lyndon Johnson and Saltonstall are also very much involved in other Senate business. Senator Bridges, the remaining member, is ill.

II. Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

On 19 June the Director briefed the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy on recent atomic energy and guided missile developments in the Soviet Union. The briefing of this Committee is a standard procedure which has been going on annually, and more often when necessary, since the Joint Committee was established.

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