

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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BRIEFING

BY

RICHARD V. ALLEN

Room 450, Old Executive Office Building

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1:15 P.M. EDT

MR. GERGEN: Good afternoon. I have the unusual pleasure today of reporting to you that Dick Allen is here, on the record, and he'll be here for about -- no, it is not for sound or cameras --

Q It is for sound and cameras?

MR. GERGEN: No, it is on the record, not for sound and cameras. It is on the record. You have paperwork that relates to the announcement that he is going to talk about. I'll talk to you for a few minutes thereafter about another briefing subject.

MR. ALLEN: The President is today establishing by Executive Order the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He is also announcing appointments to that Board and to another.

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Intelligence Oversight Board, the IOB, are key elements in the President's program to revitalize the strength of American intelligence capabilities to meet the increased danger that we face while at the same time insuring the constitutional rights of all Americans are fully protected.

The President is establishing by Executive Order the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board as a permanent, non-partisan body of distinguished Americans to perform a continuing and objective review of the performance of the intelligence community. The Board shall report directly to the President and shall have full access to all information necessary to advise the President on the conduct, management, and coordination of the various agencies of the intelligence community.

The President is also appointing three members of an Intelligence Oversight Board which is established under current Executive Order as a permanent, nonpartisan body to report to the President and to the Attorney General on intelligence activities that the Board believes to be in violation of the Constitution or of laws of the United States or a Presidential Executive Order. The Board is also charged with reviewing the internal guidelines and direction of the intelligence community.

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board or PFIAB will be composed of 19 members with a chairman and vice chairman designated by the President. The Intelligence Oversight Board, IOB, will have three members and its chairman will also be a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

The President takes pleasure to announce that he has appointed Ambassador Anne Armstrong as Chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and Mr. Leo Cherne as Vice Chairman of PFIAB.

As you know, Ambassador Armstrong's career has been particularly distinguished. Among her many accomplishments was that of being Ambassador to the Court of St. James as well as Counsellor to two former presidents.

Mr. Leo Cherne, an international economist, was Chairman of PFIAB under President Ford, and was also a member of the

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## Intelligence Oversight Board.

The Intelligence Oversight Board will be chaired by Dr. W. Glenn Campbell, an educator and economist, presently Director of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, located at Stanford University. Dr. Campbell will also be a member of the PFIAB.

We have a list and short biography of the other distinguished members, as you know. I think that's all in your possession now?

Q Yes.

MR. ALLEN: The President is committed to having the most proficient and professional intelligence services in the world. He believes that the challenges faced by our country and its intelligence services are quite extraordinary. He requires the best possible advice on where the most pressing intelligence needs are so that he can see that the intelligence services have the support and the resources they require. It is with these challenges and requirements in mind that the President is reestablishing PFIAB and naming three members to the Intelligence Oversight Board.

The members are distinguished, they have experience in the field, and they will provide a constant flow of information and evaluation to the President in discharging their duties.

The basic functions of the IOB, the Intelligence Oversight Board, are being retained. The IOB places emphasis on matters of legality and propriety and will play an important complementary role to PFIAB.

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board will report to the President through direct contact with the President himself and on a more regular basis through the Counsellor to the President, Edwin Meese. I will also be assisting in any way possible with the work of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, working with his Executive Director and other personnel, as well as with Ambassador Armstrong.

Historically, you should know that the PFIAB was first established by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. The Board advised him directly on the adequacy and the quality of intelligence required and available to the President and to key officials of the Executive Branch who were concerned with the formulation of our country's foreign and military policies. This Board was continued by each President thereafter until its termination in 1977 by President Carter.

It's clear that all students of intelligence and leading members of both parties on the Congressional intelligence committees have emphasized the essential nature of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. The availability to the President of the judgment of experienced and independent private citizens, including former military and government officials, provides him with a nonpartisan and a constructively critical evaluation of this indispensable instrument. Perfect intelligence is impossible to come by but we believe that with the recreation of PFIAB we allow to be brought to bear on the tremendous demands and challenges to the intelligence community the best kind of experience and independent judgment that is available.

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The Executive Order creating PFIAB requires that its members assess the quality, quantity and the adequacy of intelligence collection. Of the analysis and estimates that are vital to correct policy choices, of counter-intelligence and other intelligence activities requires that all elements in the intelligence community, with the complete and enthusiastic support of the Director of Central Intelligence, make available to this Board all the information it requires for its critical tasks.

Perhaps the best thing to do now would be to take your questions after reviewing just very briefly, the individual members of the Board. On the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board: Anne Armstrong, Chairman; Leo Cherne; Vice Chairman; David Abshire who is Chairman of the Center for Strategic International Studies; William Baker, who is retired Chairman of Bell Laboratories; Mr. Alfred Bloomingdale, who is an international businessman; Colonel Frank Borman, CEO, of Eastern Airlines; W. Glenn Campbell, who we have already mentioned; former Governor John B. Connally; Mr. John Foster, Jr., who is Vice President of TRW and who used to be the Director of DDR & E in the Department of Defense; Leon Jaworski, Attorney; Claire Boothe Luce, whose career is well known to you; former Chief of Naval Operations Thomas Moore; Peter O'Donnell of Dallas, Texas, a philanthropist and businessman; Ross Perot, Chairman of the Board of Electronic Data Systems Corporation; Mr. Joe Rodgers, President of American Constructors, Inc.; Paul Seabury, Professor of Political Science at U.C.L.A.; Mr. Robert Six, Board Chairman and founder of Continental Airlines; Ambassador Seymour Weiss, who is presently a consultant and formerly Ambassador to the Bahamas, but also Director of the Office of Political Military Policy, Department of State, and Attorney Edward Bennett Williams.

The three members of the Intelligence Oversight Board: Dr. W. Glenn Campbell, Chairman; Mr. Frank Stella of Detroit, Michigan; Mr. Charles Tyroler, who is Director of the Committee on the Present Danger, a non-partisan, Washington, D.C. research organization doing research on public policy matters.

I'll take your questions on these.

Q Could you clarify why we need both of these groups? Why can't one do the total job?

MR. ALLEN: Only because PFIAB and -- the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board is a body, an institution that is dedicated to evaluation of policy matters, the wide range, the wide spectrum of matters that belong within the framework of the intelligence community and will offer policy advice to the President, based on input and study of the activities of the intelligence community. In addition, it has the capability to speak independently on these policy matters to the President offering him a, if you will, second or third opinion on matters that require intensive investigation.

It was, we recall, some years ago that the -- particularly with respect to the estimate of the growth and the quality of Soviet military power that the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board played an important role.

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The IOB, on the other hand, is a body that is designed to assess the legality, propriety, and other related aspects of activities in the intelligence community and therefore functions in a policy-free manner, that is it does not engage itself in matters of policy choices pertaining to intelligence.

Q Will the President's Advisory Board advise on the new CIA charter which is being passed around now?

MR. ALLEN: You're referring to the Executive Order -- the draft Executive Order that is -- Not necessarily. The Intelligence Oversight Board itself was created and the authority for it exists in the existing Intelligence Order 12036, but PFIAB will not specifically advise with respect to this other Executive Order. It has not been asked to. I might add also that the work -- well, go ahead, I'll take your question.

Q But this Intelligence Advisory Board, under Section 2 of this piece of paper, its oversight is just in the collection of intelligence and --

MR. ALLEN: Collection and analysis of the meaning of that intelligence, in other words --

Q --It has no oversight over sections of the intelligence community that carry out "black-bag" jobs, things like that.

MR. ALLEN: I don't know about specific functions. I've never heard of those functions to which you refer, but I can say that certainly it would not have an oversight function of the activities of the intelligence community which are by and large analytical.

Q How is anyone on the outside going to know whether these two groups play the role over time, that you say they will play?

MR. ALLEN: Well, the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board reports to the President. I think that the mere fact of its existence as an independent evaluation center would be credence enough to be basis for having established it. I think that while there is no public accountability in this regard, these individuals will have access to a wide range of facts and opinion and will be to, I think, to gear the main concerns that beset the intelligence community in terms of quantity and quality of

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its information. But there is -- in the sense of public accountability, there will not. But of course, on the other hand, we do have adequate instruments to be concerned about that such as the select committees on intelligence in both the House and the Senate. So there are existing bodies that perform these oversight functions.

Q The mere fact of their existence doesn't in itself insure, however, that if they come up with these alternate opinions that you say they'll have to offer the President, that anybody in the White House will care or will listen.

MR. ALLEN: Theoretically that is correct but in practice I doubt very much that that will be the case because the PFIAB -- you see, the President had committed, during the campaign -- and I should have added that -- to recreation of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board because he believed it served a very useful purpose. It is true that whatever opinions or views that the PFIAB may come up with will not be, need not necessarily be listened to. They may not be taken but they do represent, or it does -- its creation represents the acknowledgement of the value of having an outside evaluative function performed by distinguished bodies of citizens. And that's what this is. As for IOB, it is a safeguard mechanism which is designed to -- as I've indicated, to oversee the legality and propriety of the activities of the intelligence community and therefore we believe that its mere existence should be reassurance to the American citizen.

Q But I think the question is very appropriate because -- I don't want to be condescending to my colleague -- Ed Meese is quoted in the New York Times yesterday as saying these bureaucratic reports just go into a bottomless -- but that's what we want them to do.

MR. ALLEN: I have not seen that particular comment and I'm a bureaucrat. Let me say that the activities and the output of the intelligence community is highly valued in this Administration. Our staff reads and digests carefully the entire output of the intelligence community that's made available on a regular basis. The work of the intelligence community and its analytical functions have been expanded in recent years to include sectors that go beyond what one might think would be the traditional preoccupations of the intelligence community and much of this analysis combined with the work of the Department of State, its Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and other parts of the community, constitutes a tremendous resource for us. And that material is looked at and studied carefully.

The policy conclusions are sometimes those that need to be assessed very carefully and sometimes a conclusion of the intelligence community would benefit by a review by outside individuals. We sometimes --

Q They don't have the resources to make a separate estimate.

MR. ALLEN: Pardon me?

Q They don't have the resources --

MR. ALLEN: Yes, they do. They have the resources to call on outside experts and consultants, and that's one of the reasons for the existence of consultants in the National Security Council.

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Q We assume that our intelligence community has the best resources available to any United States citizen. --

MR. ALLEN: That is correct. But also there are always external sources. After all, the collection of intelligence is a function of sweeping the world, as it were, for open information and other kinds of information. In addition, the judgments to which one comes about intent, for example, of adversaries, or even of others --

Q Whether they're on the -- drifting toward war, that type of thing?

MR. ALLEN: As I say, the judgment one makes about intent are important judgments. Given the same degree and quantity of information, individuals will come to differing points of view. That is the classic case in the intelligence community, and that's why we use the process to make sure that footnotes are added to National Intelligence Estimates and when dissenting views need to be heard they are heard.

Q Who are your associates, could you tell us?

MR. ALLEN: Yes, I would be happy to. They just reminded me of my associates. Donald Gregg, a Senior Staff Member of the National Security Council, who heads the Intelligence Division of the National Security Council Staff. Mr. Ken deGraffenreid who is a senior member of the National Security Council Staff in the same field. Major Robert Kimmett, a senior member of the National Security Council Staff who is active in our military affairs field intelligence and is also the attorney -- he does not head the Speaker's Bureau, as you so rudely indicated.

Q Is it the view within the Administration, or on the President's part, that there need to be some improvements in U.S. intelligence capabilities?

MR. ALLEN: I think that the President has believed for many years that having served on the Rockefeller Commission and based on his own experience, that there is always room for improvement in the intelligence product. I should think that the intelligence community as presently constituted welcomes the creation of PFIAB as another vehicle for the presentation of views to the President, but if you ask, can the product be improved, the answer is, yes; always. And the members, the leading members of the intelligence community, beginning with the Director of Central Intelligence, William Casey, will tell you that.

I might also add that it's important to remember in this context that PFIAB has had a proven track record of usefulness and resourcefulness to the two previous administrations, and at a time when the challenges in the world are so great and so numerous, of the recreation of PFIAB is a very wise thing indeed.

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Q If I could just scoot up further if I may, I'll follow up --

Q Has he been disappointed in any way with performances of the intelligence --

MR. ALLEN: No, the President has not indicated any indicated any disappointment whatever and the President is also a consumer of the community. How many more questions do you want to take on this? Yes, all right.

Q The track record that they were created under Eisenhower, I wonder how their track record was, say on something like the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, do we have any idea?

MR. ALLEN: No, I don't have, and I don't -- if any of us has an institutional memory. When you say track record -- in terms of assessing the meaning of it?

Q Did PFIAB come into being after those, I'm not sure--

MR. ALLEN: (Aside) No, it would have been just before -- it would have been before the -- six years --

I can't answer the question, but it's an interesting -- Could we look that up and get back to you? (Aside) Would you take on that job? We'll see if the --

Q Were both boards abolished by Carter?

MR. ALLEN: No, the IOB was created by Executive Order 12036 of President Carter.

Q --That's not correct, it was the previous -- Ford.

MAJOR KIMMITT: It was created by Executive Order 11905 --

MR. ALLEN: And continued by 12036, and a new Executive --

Q Do we know who is being replaced?

MR. ALLEN: Yes, former Governor William Scranton, Mr. Thomas Farmer, an attorney, and former Senator Albert Gore, were the three members appointed by President Carter. Their resignations were submitted earlier in the year and --

Q Before you leave would you tell us why you fired Schweitzer?

MR. ALLEN: Oh, I'd be happy to take a question on that.

MR. GREGG: Would you propose your question, please?

Q Well, would you tell us in your own words, as we say, why you relieved General Schweitzer, why you had him transferred or fired him?

MR. ALLEN: I should begin by saying that I have personally high regard for General Schweitzer, an oft-decorated soldier, a man of great integrity, loyalty, and dedication to the President, to the goals of the Administration.

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He has served in a manner distinguishing to him and reflecting credit on the Administration. The fact of the matter is that in the National Security Council staff there is a rule, and the rule is that speeches will not be given unless specifically cleared by me and that the content of the speeches should be known in advance.

It was with great regret that I took this action, and informed the President of it. I wish it had not been necessary, but I think that it is important that the discipline established by our being staff members and -- to the President -- and the need to assess carefully each and every pronouncement by a senior person which could be construed as a policy statement, is very important.

Q Are you suggesting that he just broke the rule? Will you speak to the contents of what he said?

MR. ALLEN: I don't think I need to speak to the contents because then we would get into a needless discussion of a long speech. I have not seen a copy of the speech, I have not heard a tape of the speech. I know only what has been reported to me and what is available to a leading publication.

Q What do the reports of General Schweitzer's views say about the advice that the NSC is giving to the President? Obviously they are based on something that he has seen as a member of the NSC staff. Are you telling the President that we are drifting toward war?

MR. ALLEN: No, that's -- I would not be telling the President we are drifting toward war.

Q Is General Schweitzer misinterpreting information he's receiving?

MR. ALLEN: Well, we won't comment as to what information he based his remarks on, but those views of course do not represent those of the Administration.

Q I'm trying to find out the difference between what he said and what Mr. Pipes said. That was not an authorized interview because they seemed to be saying roughly the same thing.

MR. ALLEN: That is not a question -- it was quite a different situation. Quite different circumstances prevailed in the matter of --

Q I don't think you're trying to say, are you, that had he made a completely innocuous speech he still would have been dismissed for not clearing it.

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MR. ALLEN: Oh, I think that the rules have to be observed and I believe that had someone made a speech without seeking required clearance, you see, as I mentioned, being a member of the staff of the Administration means that one must be doubly careful and one must weigh every word. The rules have been in effect since a couple of previous incidents and we insist that those rules be observed. General Schweitzer concurs, understands in the action taken and understands very well the reasons for having come to that --

Q Did you ask him for an explanation of his remarks?

Q Why did he do it? I mean did he say just why he did it? Did he say that he meant to or what?

MR. ALLEN: Yes, that's exactly what he said -- he really meant to.

Q But that was your idea? No one called you this morning or last night and said "We want you to fire General Schweitzer"?

MR. ALLEN: My action. I -- based on the preliminary information of last evening, I came to the conclusion that some action would be necessary. I reviewed the story in question last night at a quarter to eleven. I decided on the action that I would take this morning. I subsequently informed Ed Meese and subsequently informed the President and others who inquired. I spoke with the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Chief Staff of the Army and they all understand the high regard in which I personally, and other members of the National Security Council staff and all members of the White House staff hold General Schweitzer.

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Q How long has the General had this view?

MR. ALLEN: Had which view--

Q That the Soviets were about to strike, that we are drifting toward war. Is it since he's been in this Administration, or has he had this--

MR. ALLEN: I've not heard those views before.

Q I think you were answering my question. Did you say he just told you he went further than he meant to go, is that it?

MR. ALLEN: General Schweitzer indicated that he was abjectly sorry for having undertaken to make the speech and was sorry about the content of it.

Q Well, did he know that he, I mean, had he cleared with you that he wanted to be on a panel, or that he was going to participate in some way in the program?

MR. ALLEN: No, he didn't Bob.

Q Is he the first one who has been relieved from the NSC for breaking that rule--

MR. ALLEN: Yes.

Q Excuse me, Mr. Allen, he was quoted as saying in the Post that he had told someone that he was making the speech, presumably you, and that they had expressed the hope that he wouldn't get himself in trouble.

MR. ALLEN: No, I don't understand that. I didn't--

Q It wasn't you--

MR. ALLEN: Not I. And it is I who have specific responsibility for my staff.

Q It wasn't Major Kimmitt?

THE PRESS: Thank you Mr. Allen.

MR. GERGEN: One final word. Some of you have asked for a follow-up. We're going to meet here at four o'clock. I do not anticipate major news announcements at that point, but we will have a relatively brief briefing here on the record at four o'clock. It will be follow-up. And it will be after the last of the Senators come out because some of you have expressed an interest in being available to talk to them. But we're planning for four o'clock.

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2:18 P.M. EDT