

OGC 7-2052

2 December 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mr. Robert Dechert's Presence at the Closed Session on 27 November 1957 of the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee

1. At the very beginning of the Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Chairman, Senator Lyndon Johnson, assured himself that all members of the Subcommittee staff and assistants to the Subcommittee members were TOP SECRET cleared and had a "Q" clearance. He then made the statement that he assumed Mr. Dulles took responsibility for the CIA employees present and asked whether there were any other persons present.

2. Since Mr. Robert Dechert, General Counsel, Department of Defense, and General Warren were present with the knowledge of the DCI, Mr. Dulles indicated there were two Defense Department representatives present and that he, Mr. Dulles, was agreeable to their being present. There was some questioning by Senator Johnson as to whether or not they would contribute or assist the DCI in his testimony and the DCI answered that it possibly would be helpful in the future if DOD representatives were present. However, Senator Johnson indicated that as Chairman he would issue invitations for those persons whom he wished to be present. With this Mr. Dechert and General Warren left.

3. Mr. Dechert telephoned the undersigned on 2 December to inquire about the availability of the transcript of the CIA testimony. He was informed that the Committee staff by apparent direction of the Subcommittee Chairman specified that it did not desire the transcript to be made available outside of the Agency. Mr. Dechert was assured

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that the Agency had no objection to his attempting to secure the transcript through the Committee itself. Mr. Dechert advised me that he had received the copy of the Director's statement from which he testified.

4. In addition, Mr. Dechert raised the question of his being requested to leave the hearing on 27 November. He stated that if Mr. Dulles had answered Senator Johnson's question indicating that since a great deal of intelligence is received from the DOD and that possibly Mr. Dechert could be helpful he, Mr. Dechert, believed Senator Johnson would have permitted him to stay. It is, of course, impossible for me to quote this conversation verbatim but the thrust of it to me is that Mr. Dechert has rationalized this embarrassing incident in such a way that he believes the DCI could have avoided the incident. Mr. Dechert also advised that one of the staff members did approach him prior to the commencement of the closed session and asked whether his presence in the session was "set." Dechert stated that he informed the staff member that the matter was "all cleared." I did not attempt to discuss this matter with Mr. Dechert and closed the conversation by merely saying it was an unfortunate incident.

SIGNED

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

cc: DCI

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✓ Leg. C. Subject

Leg. C. Chrono.

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