

SECRET 316-69

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23 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: PUEBLO - RADM Leslie J. O'Brien, OP NAV

1. Per arrangements made by the DDCI, the undersigned visited Adm. O'Brien to discuss the Pueblo. Adm. O'Brien is the "honcho" for the Navy on all Pueblo matters pertaining to Congress.

2. O'Brien said he thought the court of inquiry would last 4 to 6 weeks. Cmdr. Bucher's testimony originally planned to last four days is obviously going to last longer than that. Additionally, the court of inquiry plans to have certain additional crew members appear (I believe he said 18).

3. At the completion of the court of inquiry there would be a 1 to 2 week period during which the court's findings would be reviewed by the CNO and the Secretary of the Navy and the determination would be made as to whether a court martial would be made.

4. Adm. O'Brien stated that he had an hour and a half briefing on the Pueblo incident covering the operational side which he had prepared initially last spring and was in the process of updating, based on the testimony of the Pueblo crew. I asked if we could have a copy of this briefing and he said he thought it would be possible after he had used it to brief the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense. He was loath to give it out until after they had been brought up to speed on the problem. He also showed me a copy of the press release from the office of Senator Stephen M. Young (D-Ohio) which was going to be issued today. This press release blamed the whole Pueblo incident on CIA and dragged out all the old CIA stories starting with the U-2, Bay of Pigs, etc. I informed the O/DDCI and the O/Legislative Counsel of the forthcoming press release.

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22 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, of the Senate Appropriations Committee staff, regarding the Pueblo

1. In a conversation with William Woodruff today, I sought to clarify some comments which he had made to Mr. Maury and me yesterday regarding Senator Russell's deep interest in the Pueblo matter and Woodruff's statement that Senator Russell would undoubtedly want to talk with Mr. Helms about his role as DCI in matters of this sort.

2. Mr. Woodruff said that he has received no indication from Senator Russell that he wants anything from the Director on this, however, Woodruff assumes, since Senator Russell is deeply interested and concerned about the Pueblo problem, he will at some time in the future want to discuss this with the Director, not so much in terms of any Agency responsibility with the Pueblo but rather to have a better understanding of how operations of this sort are handled generally. This feeling of Woodruff's is based in part on Senator Russell's initial "sour" reaction to our letter covering a withdrawal from the reserves regarding a very sensitive Agency project.

3. In summary, these expressions from Woodruff are his speculation as to what Senator Russell will want rather than any reflection through Woodruff of the Senator's own views. There is a clear understanding between Woodruff and myself that if Senator Russell desires anything from the Director, in connection with the Pueblo or in that matter on any other subject, Woodruff would let us know immediately.

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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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4. (Internal Use Only - CEA) Checked with Mr. Garner J. Cline, Counsel, House Immigration and Nationality Subcommittee, on the three private bills sponsored by the Agency. These bills have not yet been printed but Cline will keep me informed when they are due to appear on the agenda.

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5. (Confidential - GLC) Judith Spahr, on the staff of Senator Henry Jackson's (D., Wash.) Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations, called and said Dorothy Fosdick would like us to translate all of the pages of the Soviet Diplomatic Dictionary, which she had previously forwarded to us for review. I told her we would be pleased to do this and [redacted] DDI, is attending to it.

6. (Unclassified - GLC) Miss Marihelen Horneman, secretary to Senator Allen Ellender (D., La.), called to say that the Senator's schedule was fairly light on Friday and she suggested the possibility of a 2:30 p. m. meeting. I told Miss Horneman I would check on this and be back in touch with her.

7. (Secret - GLC) Talked with Bill Woodruff, on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, regarding the extent of Senator Russell's interest in talking with the Director about the Pueblo. Woodruff said that the Senator had not given him any indication that he wanted anything from the Director at this time. However, it is Woodruff's assumption that, at some time in the future, the Chairman will want to talk with the Director about this and the project involved in our withdrawal from reserve letter of 23 December 1968. (See Memorandum for the Record for details.)

I gave to Woodruff [redacted] a Pravda commentary on Senator Russell's reference to Adam and Eve in a nuclear holocaust in the secret Senate debate on the Sentinel program. This is the second such Moscow press item that we have given to Woodruff on this.

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I mentioned to Woodruff the nomination of [redacted] as a candidate for the Arthur Fleming Award. I called particular attention to the fact that [redacted] mother's family are long time residents of the state of Georgia. Woodruff appreciated my calling this to his attention.

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[redacted]

cc:
O/DDCI Ex/Dir-Compt
DD/I DD/S DD/S&T

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

[redacted] Mr. Houston Mr. Goodwin
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25X1A 10. (Secret - GLC) Messrs. Maury and Cary met with Mr. Bill Woodruff, of the Senate Appropriations Committee staff. Arrangements were made for [] to provide Woodruff and Michaels with a briefing tomorrow at 2:30 p. m. in Michaels' office. This is a follow-up to Woodruff's and Michaels' meeting at the Agency in December on the budget.

The subject of the Pueblo came up in the course of our conversation. Woodruff said that Senator Russell was obviously very interested in this and would want to talk with the Director, at some time in the future, regarding the role of the DCI in such matters. We advised Woodruff that the Director was considering writing to Senator Russell inviting him to a luncheon at the Agency and suggested this might be an appropriate time for the Director and Senator Russell to discuss the Pueblo. Woodruff said he thought this was a good suggestion and certainly worth trying.

25X1A I advised Woodruff that our Director of Personnel was still reviewing the application of [] which had been referred to us by Woodruff. I told him that [] initial reaction was that, although [] was 25X1A obviously well qualified for the work he was doing for Senator Hayden, his background and experience had little to offer the Agency. In the absence of any other considerations, we could only consider him for some type of administrative position at a level no higher than grade 12. Woodruff said this was precisely what he wanted to know but it was agreed I would be in touch with him again when [] had had an opportunity to review the case further.

11. (Confidential - GLC) Met with Ed Braswell, who has been officially appointed to the position of Chief of Staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Charles Kirbow, of the Committee staff, with regard to Committee action on the appointment of Admiral Taylor to the rank of Vice Admiral on the retired list. They expect the Committee to act on Admiral Taylor's appointment and others at a Committee meeting this coming Thursday. If the Committee does approve the nomination on Thursday, it will probably go to the Senate floor for action on Friday.

Mr. Kirbow informed me that he is being considered for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Procurement. He also informed me that Mr. Frank Sanders, of the House Appropriations Committee staff, is also under consideration for that position.

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