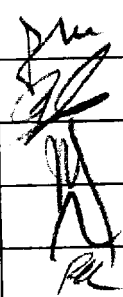


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FORM NO. 237 Use previous editions (40)  
1-67

OGC Has Reviewed

OLC 71-0401  
26 May 1971

25X1A



Mr. Helms has asked me to reply to your telegram of 24 May 1971 referring to a column in the Philadelphia Inquirer on 23 May 1971.

In answer to your question as to whether the Central Intelligence Agency is involved in the opium traffic, you may have seen reference in the press to a statement made by the Director on this matter in a speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, D. C., on 14 April 1971. In case you did not read this, the following is a quotation of the pertinent passage in that speech:

There is the arrant nonsense, for example, that the Central Intelligence Agency is somehow involved in the world drug traffic. We are not. As fathers, we are as concerned about the lives of our children and grandchildren as are all of you. As an Agency, in fact, we are heavily engaged in tracing the foreign roots of the drug traffic for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. We hope we are helping with a solution; we know we are not contributing to the problem.

Allen Ginsberg did state that he was going to present proof, but so far he has not submitted any information or evidence of any sort involving CIA with the opium traffic.

In sum, this Agency does not participate or assist in, or condone in any manner, trade in drugs of any sort. If any employee were found to have been associated in any way with drug transactions, his services would be immediately terminated and the matter would be referred to the proper enforcement authorities. We can say this with assurance since, as mentioned by Mr. Helms, we have for years been working with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, assisting it with whatever information we can obtain on drug transactions, so we would know if any of our personnel were involved. As a concerned parent, you have every right to ask the question, but, as noted by Mr. Helms, most of us too are parents whose children are also subject to the vicious threat of the drug dealer.

We fail completely to understand the motivation of those who distort information and spread false rumors such as those in the column you refer to.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

cc: ER  
Asst to DCI-Mr. Goodwin  
OLC  
CI Staff [Redacted]  
General Counsel

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## JOURNAL

## OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 26 May 1971

25X1 1. [ ] Russ Blandford and Frank Slatinshek, House Armed Services Committee staff, called regarding today's New York Times article by John Finney about SS-9 and SS-11 silos. Blandford said he would like somebody from the Agency, preferably [ ] to meet with Blandford and Slatinshek on Tuesday, 1 June, at 10:00 a. m., along with General Philpott, of DIA, in order to get an agreed CIA/DIA statement on the subject which could be used to refute some of Finney's allegations. After checking with the Director, I told Blandford that [ ] would not be available but Carl Duckett would be glad to join them at that time. I explained that, as Slatinshek would recall from my earlier briefing, we didn't entirely agree with the Finney article but it was accurate in important respects so they should not expect us to completely refute it. Slatinshek said he understood the situation but wanted to refute some of Finney's flat statements which went beyond the position of the intelligence community. Slatinshek said that at the 1 June meeting they would want a paper on the subject coordinated between CIA and DIA. Mr. Duckett is working this out with DIA. 25X1

Discussed with Blandford and Slatinshek their request for information on all Agency covert action programs, explaining this was something we would not want to put in writing but would be glad to discuss orally and suggested they visit Headquarters for this purpose. It was agreed they would come to Headquarters for a general discussion of the Agency budget and our CA programs at 2:30 p. m., on Tuesday, 1 June 1971.

25X1 2. [ ] In the absence of Representative Charles Gubser (R., Calif.), I talked to Miss Jean Gordon, his Administrative Assistant, regarding inquiries Mr. Gubser had received, and referred to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, concerning Agency involvement in Southeast Asian drug traffic. I said we understood from contacts in the Bureau that they had received Mr. Gubser's inquiry and were preparing a response which they hoped to deliver by noon tomorrow. I said we also understood this response would speak favorably of the Agency's cooperation with the Bureau in working on the drug problem, and we wonder whether, if this was the case, the Congressman might be willing to insert it in the Congressional Record, thus giving us something we could refer to in answering numerous questions on this subject. Miss Gordon said she could not speak for the Congressman but would be glad to call the letter to his attention with my suggestion as soon as it was received.

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Tuesday - 25 May 1971

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25X1 6. [ ] Talked with Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations David Abshire about the impact of Senator Case's disclosures concerning the Radios, [ ] and other matters. Abshire had some thoughts on the subject but suggested that nothing be done until the Radios bill has been successfully handled in the Senate. See Memo for the Record.

25X1

25X1 7. [ ] Hand-carried to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy the latest [ ]  
25X1A [ ]  
25X1A [ ]

25X1 8. [ ] Roger Mills, in the office of Representative Charles Rangel (D., N.Y.), called and asked if we could give them any help in handling an inquiry they had received on alleged CIA involvement in drug traffic in Southeast Asia. I told Mills that the allegations contained in the Ramparts article on this subject were not true and alluded to the cooperation we have been giving the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and told him I would have somebody give him some written material on this, as he requested, tomorrow.

25X1 9. [ ] Miss Carolyn Cohen, in the office of Representative Frank Thompson (D., N.J.), called on behalf of [ ]  
25X1A [ ]  
25X1A [ ]  
25X1A [ ]

25X1A [ ] was associated with the Agency. I explained the standard "no comment" policy and suggested that if [ ] were truly concerned about finding out more information about this company that he try Government agencies associated with the airline industry, such as FAA or CAB which she agreed made sense. In response to her request, Agency application forms and brochures were sent to her.

25X1 10. [ ] In response to his inquiry of 24 May, spoke with Hendrick Gideon, Senate Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization staff, and told him that the managerial communication problem of interest to him was not a proper concern for the Agency in the context of Reorganization Plan No. 1 and that a meeting with Agency officials as proposed by him would not serve any useful purpose. In connection with his interest in obtaining a better understanding of the intelligence community, I offered to drop by some material.

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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 21 May 1971



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2. [redacted] Met with Representative Bob Steele (R., Conn.), [redacted] and gave him a rundown on Agency activities in support of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in trying to cope with the problem of illegal drug traffic into the U.S. Steele was most friendly

[redacted] He permitted me to make some changes in portions of his draft report on a recent survey trip to Southeast Asia in which he mentions the Agency and Air America. During his Southeast Asia trip, he had gotten the impression that the Agency still had some connection with KMT elements in the triborder area who were implicated in opium traffic. I said I thought this highly unlikely but would look into it. Steele will consider the possibility of getting a statement from the Bureau of Narcotics favorable to the Agency which he can put into the Congressional Record, [redacted]

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[redacted] He'll think about this and let me know next week. Steele appears to be studying the drug problem conscientiously and intensively and would like to discuss it informally with some Agency officer who is following it, [redacted] We tentatively agreed to get together at dinner at my home on 2 June.

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