

House Foreign Affairs Committee

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)				
FROM: Acting Legislative Counsel			EXTENSION <input type="checkbox"/>	NO. DATE 27 July 1972 STAT
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. Executive Director				<p>Attached are copies of Ogden Reid's press release and letter to Chairman Morgan asking that the Foreign Affairs Committee investigate reports of active Agency involvement in illegal narcotic traffic. He commented to us this morning that he was doing this in part because he did not want "to see the Agency embarrassed." I doubt anything will be done on this before Chairman Morgan returns but we have alerted Frank Slatinshek to Reid's request and sent copies to interested offices.</p> <p>Reid is a Yale graduate and a member of the University's Council Committee on the Graduate School.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 300px; height: 60px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: right;">Acting Legislative Counsel</p> <p>Atts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">STATINTL</p>
2. Director				
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15. Approved For Release 2007/03/06 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000100100017-8				

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: MISC

July 25, 1972

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, it has been prominently reported in the press in the past few days that the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department have allegedly been actively involved in illegal narcotics trafficking in Southeast Asia.

Needless to say, these are serious allegations. Narcotics are literally killing thousands of American citizens annually. The implications of covert participation by U.S. Government agencies in illicit narcotics trade are chilling.

Without in any way prejudging the truth of these allegations, but mindful of the profound and deeply disturbing questions they must raise in the minds of the American people, I believe that a full-scale Congressional investigation of these charges would be in order.

Such an investigation is needed for two reasons. First, if the charges are true, this reprehensible activity must cease forthwith and the responsible officials must be appropriately dealt with. Second, if the charges are without foundation, the American people deserve to be so apprised, and through a forum whose credibility is above reproach.

Accordingly, I would like respectfully to request that the Foreign Affairs Committee convene such an investigation, perhaps by the full committee. Because of the gravity of the matter and the need for credibility, I believe such an investigation should be in open session and the power of subpoena should be exercised if necessary.

I am appending some recent articles dealing with this question, in the event that they might not have come to your attention. Also enclosed is a suggested list of possible witnesses whom the Committee might consider calling, should this inquiry appear meritorious.

Your attention and consideration are greatly appreciated.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. William P. Higgins, Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee
2170 RMOB
House of Representatives

Ogden R. Reid

FROM
REPRESENTATIVE
OGDEN R. REID

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NEWS RELEASE

26th Congressional District • New York

914 - 428-3040 - White Plains, New York
202 - 225-6506 - Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY A.M. JULY 27, 1972

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (JULY 27, 1972) -- Congressman Ogden R. Reid (D-NY) today revealed that he has called for a full-scale Congressional investigation into charges that the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department have been actively involved in illegal narcotics traffic from Southeast Asia.

In a letter to the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, released here, Congressman Reid urged open hearings and called for employment of the Committee's seldom used subpoena power to assure agency cooperation.

Noting that "narcotics are literally killing thousands of Americans annually," the Congressman described the implications of involvement by U.S. agencies as "chilling."

Congressman Reid's action followed publication earlier this week of a report from a Yale researcher who spent 18 months investigating narcotics operations in Southeast Asia. The researcher, Alfred W. McCoy, has aired his charges in the New York Times, Harper's Magazine and in a book scheduled for publication later this Fall. He has been the target of a rebuttal by CIA officials which has been characterized by the press as "intense and unusual."

Commenting on the disclosures, Congressman Reid noted that there have been persistent reports over the past few years of the CIA's clandestine involvement in narcotics trade.

"This is the first time that Congress and the American people have had the opportunity to review the fact with an independent researcher with experience in the field," Congressman Reid said. He added that it provides an excellent opportunity for the CIA and the State Department to answer the charges in a situation that will assure "credibility."

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