

PFIAB
72-2376

28 APR 1972

Admiral George W. Anderson, Jr.
Chairman
President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
Executive Office Building

Dear George:

You will recall that at the last meeting of the Board, we discussed the Cooper bill (S. 2224) and the possibility you might wish to inform the White House of your views as to its impact on intelligence. The bill, you will remember, would impose a requirement on this Agency to supply the Congress with intelligence information and analysis. I am attaching an analysis we have prepared of the provisions of the bill, including comments on some of the serious problems its enactment would pose, as well as the Administration's position on the bill, as communicated to Chairman Fulbright by the Department of State. I also enclose a copy of the bill itself.

Aside from the constitutional problems commented upon in the enclosures, our primary concerns involve:

- (a) the possible "politicizing" of intelligence analysis, and
- (b) the protection of sensitive information.

There have been some indications that the bill's advocates may be satisfied with less than the most sensitive materials; but once the door is opened with a statutory requirement, there is nothing to prevent an escalation of demands and possible charges that the Agency is withholding information. It is difficult even under present circumstances to maintain the security of our intelligence system. Any degradation of our ability to protect information increases the possibility that vital sources of information will be irretrievably lost.

It is our opinion that Congress has not lacked the information it needs from CIA to fulfill its role in the formulation of foreign and national security policy. As you know, we have consistently made

ourselves available to a number of congressional committees to provide them substantive intelligence briefings and to answer questions that fall within their jurisdiction.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms

Richard Helms

Enclosures (3)

IC:BT:dm (Drafted by LC)

Distribution:

- Original - Addressee
- 1 - ExDir-Compt.
- ① - LC
- 1 - ER
- 1 - IC/subject
- 1 - IC/chrono