

15 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT : Talk Given to Gaithersburg Rotary Club  
on 14 February 1967

1. On 14 February, in response to your telephoned request and the subsequent receipt from you of Roy W. Kennedy's 9 December 1966 letter addressed to the Agency, Attention [REDACTED] I spoke at a meeting of the Gaithersburg Rotary Club held at the Washingtonian Motel. Attached is a copy of the outline of the talk. Basically, the talk was the same one I gave on 5 October 1966 to a Naval Reserve Unit in the Pentagon, an outline of which is in your files. In the Gaithersburg talk, however, I eliminated all mention of the Agency's covert action responsibilities.

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2. The questions asked after the 20-minute prepared talk presented no serious problems. They were either of the type that I could answer without treading on sensitive areas (e.g. are CIA and DIA competing for dominance in the intelligence business?) or of the type that permitted me to plead sheer ignorance and then justify the ignorance (e.g. how many people work for CIA and how much money does it spend?).

3. The feed-back from the group -- all business and professional men -- after the meeting broke up may be of interest to you. Several men said that the talk had corrected a number of misconceptions they had had about the Agency (largely related to free-wheeling in spending money and to unilateral, irresponsible action in foreign policy). Several said that the Agency could do a lot to win the taxpayers' confidence by giving more such talks to more groups of business and professional men. One gentleman commented in a similar vein, adding that he was glad that we didn't give them the kind of "snow-job" treatment that they got from the FBI and the Air Force -- a comment on which, needless to say, I made no comment.

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Chief, Intelligence School, OTR

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