

OLC
73-15 STAT
12 NOV 73
SASC

12 November 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel
THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence *JAF*
SUBJECT : Response to Senator Baker's letter

1. The allegations concerning Helms' conversation with the Watch Office on the weekend of 17 - 18 June 1972 are clearly false. The Operations Center's report on this episode, together with its logs, is attached. For a full account these materials should be combined with D/OS' account of the rest of the story. One point should be added. The Duty Officer with whom Helms spoke on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning has been interviewed. He has no recollection of having discussed the Watergate affair with Helms on these or any other occasions, and it would have been most uncharacteristic for him to have done so.

2. My own recollection is that Helms told his morning meeting on Monday that he had had a quiet evening at home ruined by a call from Howard Osborn telling him "Boss, I have some repulsive news for you," and going on to inform him that Hunt and McCord were involved. I assume this is the call which D/OS reported to the Watch Office at 2217 Saturday evening and which is mentioned in Helms' testimony and mismentioned in Rowan's column. The Watch Office is under the impression that Helms had gone to Lewes for the weekend, but I believe they are wrong about this and that he was at home in Washington. The morning meeting minutes of Monday contain Helms' instructions on how to handle the affair but do not mention the particular language I have quoted. I suspect, however, that the others who were there will also remember it vividly.

3. St. George's reference to Kissinger's return of estimates and memoranda with obscenities sprawled across

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them is of course also false. When Kissinger came to the White House he had a number of criticisms of specific CIA papers and often returned them with specific comments, requests for development or clarification, or challenges to the theses presented. He also was highly complimentary on a number of other CIA papers during the same period. All of this was read here as being part of the normal process of adjustment from one administration to another.

4. This story has appeared previously in print, although we are unable collectively to remember where. Its genesis is possibly Kissinger's unhappiness with the major military estimates because they did not develop fully enough and precisely enough questions that were in dispute, and did not bring out fully the reasoning and evidence underlying the various agency positions. In response to this pressure a new approach was developed for NIE 11-8, and the new product drew a complimentary memorandum from the President.

5. The remainder of this section of St. George's article somehow wraps up Kissinger's efforts to improve the production of national intelligence with the efforts of Ehrlichman, Colson, et. al in domestic espionage in a single package, and this in turn becomes an assault on the Intelligence Community's "vital monopoly" as the President's only source of intelligence information. Enough said.



Richard Lehman

Director of Current Intelligence

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Attachment



Concur:

Deputy Director for Intelligence

12 Nov 73
Date

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TAB

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

Date: 16/17 June 1972

Time	Event and Action
1930	DIC LDXed to WHSR; sent to Sig Ctr for transmission to [redacted]
1940	At the request of NSO authorized a call charged to the Agency from [redacted] to [redacted]
1955	Dispatched a Motor Pool vehicle to take [redacted] home.
2105	CIB sent to Sig Ctr for transmission to [redacted] and worldwide recipients. CIB (B) sent to Sig Ctr for transmission to [redacted] Secretary Connally.
2235	SDO briefed [redacted] No action.
2300	WOS [redacted] EOD.
0403	CIB and DIC LDX'd to NMCC...CIB LDX'd to WHSR.
0540	PDB to Sig Ctr for twx to WHSR.
0745	SDO [redacted] EOD.
0810	SDO [redacted] off duty <i>JJ</i> .
0815	Closing log.
<i>SAT AM June 17</i>	

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Watch Officer

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

Date: 17 June 1972 (Sat AM)

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Time	Event and Action
0815	Continuing log....
0820	Cable Sec and OCI/Registry [redacted] notified that front office (O/DCI) open for business.
0830	WHSR advises that henceforth, [redacted] will be assigned to outgoing msgs(PDB) by Sit Room after [redacted] twx from Sig Ctr.
0845	Mr. Lehman EOD.
1100	WOS [redacted] EOD.
1107	[redacted] called in and conferred with the SDO.
1204	[redacted] briefed SDO on a NCNA item just received stating that Le Duc Tho has stopped over in Peking on his return to Hanoi. Informed Mr. Lehman, PDB, VNTF and OCI/EUR. CSDO also informed. Alerted WHSR DO.
1239	[redacted] briefed SDO on Paris AFP release stating that the North Vietnamese Embassy in Peking will hold a press conference on Sunday. Informed Mr. Lehman, VNTF, PDB, CSDO and SAVA. SDO WHSR advised.
1245	Mr. Helms has departed for the day.
1250	O/DDI closed; WO [redacted] out to check.
1322	Mr. Lehman has departed for the day.
1520	WO [redacted] departed the Operations Center to take a memo prepared by OSR to [redacted] at the White House.
* 1530	Mr. Helms called in and conferred with the SDO. NSO advised how to contact the DCI should he be needed.
1600	SDO [redacted] EOD.
1630	SDO [redacted] off duty.

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[redacted] Watch Officer

TOP SECRET [redacted]

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

Date: 17 June 1972 (SAT) PM

Time	Event and Action
1635	WO [redacted] returned to the Operations Center.
*1718	[redacted] requested that Security search its files to determine if an identification of one Edward Martin, arrested by the Metropolitan Police this morning for breaking into the Democratic National Committee Headquarters. Martin claimed to have been employed by the Agency until several years ago. The incident was reported by AP City Wire, item 71, however, Martin's claim to be a former CIA employee was not included in the item. [redacted] has been queried by the Washington Post as to the truth of Martin's claim as a former Agency employee. Requested Security to check its files.
*1830	Security cannot identify Edward Martin as a former employee of the Agency. Checked CSDO. Secret Service requested namechecks on all those arrested at the Democratic Headquarters early this morning. None of those arrested had Agency employee status. Advised [redacted]
*2215	Mr. Wilde of the Washington Post called for [redacted] Mr. [redacted] is out for the evening. Informed Mr. Wilde. He requested that [redacted] call him when he returns.
STAT *2217	[redacted] conferred with the SDO, DCI has been alerted to fact that two former employees Jim Mc Cord and Howard Hunt were among those arrested at Democratic National Headquarters early today. [redacted] instructed SDO to handle press queries as earlier - call [redacted]
STAT *2235	Reached [redacted] at his residence. Passed message from Mr. Wilde at Washington Post. [redacted] will call Wilde. [redacted] has spoken with [redacted]
*2240	[redacted] called. Mr. Wilde of Washington Post has requested identification as a former employee of one James W. Mc Cord, Jr., 53 years old. [redacted] intends to put Wilde off until Monday morning.

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[redacted] Watch Officer

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

Date: 17/18 June 1972

Time	Event and Action
2240	Continuing log....
2300	WOS [redacted] EOD.
0100	FAA/DO advises that Western Airline flt 226 out of Los Angeles to Los Vegas is in the process of being hijacked ...OS and CSDO informed.
0450	PDB sent to Sig Ctr for transmission to WHSR for Dr. Kissinger's party. Hard copy LDXed to WHSR.
0730	Checked with FAA re 0100 entry. Hijacking turned out to be false...crew XXXXXXXX "panicked" when a passenger mentioned the word "hijack". There was no interruption of the flight. OS and CSDO advised.
0800	SDO [redacted] EOD.
0810	SDO [redacted] off duty <u>Edm</u> .
0900	Closing log.

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[redacted]

Watch Officer

TOP SECRET [redacted]

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

Date: 18 June 1972

Time	Event and Action
0900	Continuing log.....
0930	Mr. Lehman EOD... cable sec informed that Mr. Lehman is sitting in 7F-24.
* 1047	Mr. Helms conferred with the SDO. DCI's afternoon plans passed to Security.
1130	[redacted] called in and was briefed by the SDO.
1215	Mr. Lehman departed the office for the day.
1240	O/D/OCI is closed; WO [redacted] out to check.
1250	CIB Submissions List sent to [redacted] via telecopier.
* 1450	UPI 225A states that James W. Mc Cord, identified as an ex-CIA employee, has been further identified as a member of the President's Reelection Campaign Committee. Mc Cord is one of five persons arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee Headquarters on Saturday. Alerted Security, CSDO.
* 1500	Security DO in the Operations Center to pick up press on breakin of Democratic Headquarters.
1600	SDO [redacted] EOD.
1615	SDO [redacted] off duty. <i>JMS</i>
1620	Briefed [redacted] on UPI 225A.
1815	PDB drafts LDXed to WHSR.
* 1820	Mr. Helms called in and conferred with the SDO. DCI's evening plans passed to NSO.
* 1905	Mr. Helms was briefed by the SDO on the current press reporting of the break in at the Democratic National Headquarters on Saturday and its aftermath.

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Watch Officer

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

Date: 18/19 JUNE 1972

Time	Event and Action
1935	CIB (B) sent to Sig Ctr for transmission to [redacted] Secretary Connally. [redacted]
2006	DIC LDXed to WHSR.
2020	CIB sent to Sig Ctr for transmission to [redacted] and worldwide recipients.
2300	WOs [redacted] on duty.
0420	Red CIB LDXed to WHSR & NMCC. DIC LDXed to NMCC.
0430	SDO conferred with [redacted] re AP 054 & FBIS 16 (Soviet call for immediate halt of US military actions against NVN ports & the resumption of constructive talks in Paris). PDB & Black CIB updated.
0535	PDB sent to Sig Ctr for transmission to WHSR for Dr. Kissinger's party.
0700	WOs [redacted] on duty.
0715	Closing log.

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[redacted]
Watch Officer

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