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*How Steel Ops
L. H. ...*

OLC 73-1055
7 September 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Agency Public Affairs Activities

1. Met with Mr. William G. Phillips, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information, House Government Operations Committee, as a followup to Phillips' letter of 24 August 1973 (attached). Although the letter was written with a light touch, Phillips was deadly serious about the question he raised concerning Angus Thuermer's position.

2. Phillips called in Norman Cornish, Deputy Staff Director, and Jim Kronfeld, Staff Counsel, to sit with us. In brief, I covered the following points in the discussion of the position of the Assistant to the Director:

- a. No formal experience in public relations;
- b. Not a public relations officer;
- c. The individual is appointed to the position to respond to press inquiries;
- d. Most of those who have held the position have been individuals who were recruited originally from the press field;
- e. These individuals are drawn from Agency operations for this assignment and are ones who know how to keep their mouths shut;

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f. The Agency gives no press releases;

g. We hold no press conferences;

h. It is necessary for our organization to have a reasonable, responsible point of control over inquiries; and

i. Particularly during the last six years, DCI would be the only person who would meet minimum qualifications as a public affairs officer.

3. All in all the meeting was most cordial. No further action will be required.

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject

1 - Mr. Thuermer

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