

OLC 75-273  
Int Act Indochina

October 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Indochina for Messrs. Jack Brady and Jack Sullivan of the House International Relations Committee Staff

1. Before the briefing at 1000, I accompanied [redacted] of OLC to see the committee's staff chief, Marian Czarnecki, who had just returned from a junket to Poland. Czarnecki happened to be scanning today's Checklist. We got off to an unhappy start when he said that "you can tell whomever is turning this out that he is wasting his time." Without revealing my Checklist connection (I saved that for later), I asked what bothered him. He replied that the Checklist is so "sanitized" that it is "useless;" he could "read the same things in the Washington Post." I reminded him that the Post does not carry sensitive items on Soviet and Chinese strategic weapons and other pearls that we publish. I also noted that I thought that our analytical and estimative annexes were unique and could not be trumped by Katherine Graham's minions. Czarnecki grudgingly gave some ground on these points. When I mentioned the USSR/Indian Ocean item in today's Checklist, Czarnecki said he did not think that was of any great interest. He claimed that Brezhnev's comments would have come back on the congressional circuit and there was no need for us to report them, too. I wanted to disagree with him on several grounds, but decided not to press the point since he seemed to be in a negative mood. He did ask the name of the Congressman cited in the item and I told him it was Rep. Vanik.

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2. [redacted] then discussed his business with Czarnecki. When leaving, I thanked Czarnecki for his comments and said that there would be times in some situations when we would be able to add little to what open sources were reporting. Still, we would do our best to make the Checklist as unique as possible. (Czarnecki has grouched about the Checklist in similar fashion to [redacted])

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3. I then got down to the main business at hand, the briefing of Brady and Sullivan. Both were quite knowledgeable about Indochina and Southeast Asia and have traveled there several times in the past. I covered all of Indochina plus Thailand in a little over an hour. They asked numerous questions, most of which I could field. There were several, however, that I said I would have to look into and report back on. Most were fairly routine, but they did wonder about the impact of the loss of [redacted] [redacted] I will get back to Sullivan on the unanswered questions via telephone.

4. Both Brady and Sullivan were attentive and seemed appreciative of my rambling narrative. Sullivan was particularly congenial. He is something of an expert on Indonesia. Fortunately, we did not delve into that subject--even though I had boned up on it a bit.

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cc: OLC

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