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Wednesday - 25 June 1975

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**SECRET**

25X1 [redacted]  
25X1 16. [redacted] In [redacted] absence, took a call 25X1  
from Charles Snodgrass, House Appropriations Committee staff, asking  
✓ where the appropriations language was that he had requested. He said if  
they did not get the language today, Chairman George Mahon would call  
Mr. Colby.

25X1 Upon [redacted] return he called Snodgrass and told him the  
language was on its way to him.

25X1 17. [redacted] Julie Marshall, in the office of Senator  
Dick Clark (D., Iowa), called and asked for General Walter's telephone  
number saying the Senator would like to have breakfast with the General  
and talk about the Iberian Peninsula [redacted] 25X1  
I gave her the number.

[redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] 25X1  
Acting Legislative Counsel

**SECRET**

cc:  
O/DDCI

- 25X1 [redacted]  
Ex. Sec.  
DDI  
DDA  
DDS&T  
Mr. Warner  
Mr. Thuermer  
Mr. Parmenter

25X1 [redacted]  
EA/DDO  
Compt

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[REDACTED] **SECRET**

25X1 [REDACTED]  
25X1 11. [REDACTED] Shirley McGloon, on the staff of  
Representative J. William Stanton (R., Ohio), called to make sure  
that the phone number we had given her [REDACTED] 25X1  
was correct. Apparently, the number we had given her on 19 June for  
25X1 a constituent [REDACTED] who has information he believes useful to the  
Agency, was disconnected. After checking with [REDACTED] I 25X1  
gave Ms. McGloon the new number.

25X1 12. [REDACTED] Dropped off the following: with  
Charles Snodgrass, House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee staff, the  
suggested language we had prepared in response to his request for open  
✓ appropriations language; at Representative George Mahon's office, the  
Director's letter taking a strong stand against an open budget; at Representative  
John Conyer's office, a letter from the Director regarding operation [REDACTED] 25X1

25X1 13. [REDACTED] After [REDACTED] checked with 25X1  
25X1 General Walters and [REDACTED] I called Mark Kolner, on the House  
Republican Research Committee staff, on his inquiry concerning the  
25X1 General's visit [REDACTED] I said the General had made an "official  
fact finding trip," and that he had made no written report of his findings  
but had reported orally. I said if he had any questions about the details  
of the trip he should have his chairman write to the General who I thought  
would be responsive to such a request. Mr. Kolner asked whether the  
trip was a "state visit" and I repeated it "was an official fact finding trip."  
He asked who had sent the General and to whom the General reported upon  
his return, and I repeated that I thought the best way to get at these details  
would be to have his chairman write the General. Kilner said he would  
"get it into that channel."

25X1 14. [REDACTED] Accompanied the Director to a briefing  
of the Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, House  
✓ Government Operations Committee, on the Privacy Act. See Memo for Record.

25X1 15. [REDACTED] Accompanied the Director to a session  
with several House members [REDACTED] See Memo 25X1  
for Record.

[REDACTED] **SECRET**

25X1

**SECRET**

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25X1 [Redacted]

25X1

[Large Redacted Block]

2. [Redacted] I called on Charles Snodgrass, House Appropriations Committee Staff, at his request, to explain to him the various codewords and caveats which appear on our publications. During our conversation Snodgrass remarked that he had asked that the Agency provide a draft for proposed appropriations legislation. Snodgrass said that if this was not received by c. o. b. this afternoon, the Director would receive a call from Chairman George H. Mahon, (D., Tex.).

25X1

3. [Redacted] I called on Pat Holt, Chief of Staff of Senate Foreign Relations, to discuss several items he had raised with [Redacted] yesterday [Redacted]

25X1

25X1

[Redacted Block]

4. [Redacted] called on Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel on Committee on Armed Services of the House, to explain to him we could not provide an unclassified version of the SIC memo on "Military Implications of Technology Transfer to the Soviet Union." Frank took this in good grace but he said he would like to read the classified version and I agreed to send it down to him via the daily courier run.

25X1 [Redacted]

**SECRET**

IMPDET CL [Signature]

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25 JUN 1975

Honorable George H. Mahon, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In responding to a request by the Subcommittee staff to draft appropriations language providing some form of open appropriation for the Central Intelligence Agency, I would like to underscore my views on the open budget issue.

I am strongly opposed to the public disclosure of the Central Intelligence Agency's budget or of a total budget figure for the intelligence community. While I recognize that, in the final analysis, this is a matter for determination by the Congress, I believe disclosure would do a disservice to our foreign intelligence efforts and therefore would not be in the national interest.

I am convinced that once an intelligence budget figure is made public, it will be impossible to prevent the disclosure of many sensitive and critically important intelligence programs and activities. Whether the published figure represents the Agency or intelligence community budget, whether it reveals intelligence budgets in whole or in part, I believe the ultimate effect would be the same.

Disclosure of intelligence budgets could provide potential enemies with significant insight into the nature and scope of our national foreign intelligence effort, particularly where analysis of year-to-year fluctuations in the budget are possible. Publication of intelligence budget figures would result in debate on changes or trends developed in succeeding year figures, and fluctuations in the figure would generate demands for explanations which in turn would reveal the component parts of the figure and the programs supported by it. The history of disclosure of Atomic Energy Commission budget materials and related information by both Executive Branch and the Congress indicates that publication of any figure with respect to intelligence would quickly stimulate pressures for further disclosure and probes by various sectors into the nature of the figure and its component elements.



Questions have been raised concerning the constitutionality of the present financial processes for protecting our national foreign intelligence effort. I believe the present procedures are fully in accord with the Constitution. Agency appropriations are an integral part of appropriations made by law and are reflected in the Treasury's Statement and Account of Receipts and Expenditures in compliance with Article I, Section 9, clause 7 of the Constitution. Moreover, there is considerable historical precedent for budgetary secrecy, going back to debates in Constitutional Conventions and the use of a secret fund during the administrations of Washington and Madison, and a secret appropriations act in 1811. Congress most recently endorsed secrecy of intelligence budgets [redacted] when the Senate rejected an amendment [redacted] which would have required that the total budget figure for intelligence purposes be made public.

If the Subcommittee believes it is essential to make some public statement concerning intelligence appropriations, I would suggest inclusion in the Committee Report of language along the lines attached.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

W. E. Colby  
Director

Attachment: As stated

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