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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

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NEWS SERVICE

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7PM-CIA-Files: 350

7BY DONALD M. ROTHBERG

7ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - SENATE LEADERS HAVE LEFT IT TO THE NEW INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TO DECIDE WHETHER THE CIA SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DESTROY ITS FILES ON ITS PAST MISDEEDS.

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD AND MINORITY LEADER HUGH SCOTT SAID TUESDAY THEY WOULD LEAVE THE QUESTION OF THE CIA FILES IN THE HANDS OF THE JUST-CREATED COMMITTEE.

CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH WROTE TO MANSFIELD AND SCOTT TO TELL THEM HE PLANNED TO DESTROY THE FILES NOW THAT CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

MANSFIELD AND SCOTT WERE THE ONES WHO HAD ASKED THE CIA TO SAVE THE FILES WHILE CONGRESS WAS INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGED MISDEEDS.

ALTHOUGH THE FILES ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS, MANY OF THE SAME DOCUMENTS ARE THE SUBJECT OF PENDING COURT CASES INVOLVING THE CIA'S MAIL-OPENING PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE ILLEGAL DOMESTIC SPYING ON AMERICAN CITIZENS.

MEANWHILE, THE HEADS OF TWO SUBCOMMITTEE HAVE URGED BUSH NOT TO DESTROY THE MATERIAL.

REP. BELLA ABZUG D-N.Y., WHO CHAIRS THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE WROTE BUSH AND SAID: "I URGE YOU TO RETHINK YOUR REQUEST AND WITHDRAW IT."

REP. ABZUG TOLD BUSH: "YOUR REQUEST PRESUMABLY WOULD INCLUDE FILES AND RECORDS RELATING TO ASSASSINATIONS OF FOREIGN LEADERS AND OTHER MATTERS WHICH MAY BE OF CONTINUING INTEREST TO VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES."

SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY, D-MASS., CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE SUBCOMMITTEE, ALSO WROTE TO BUSH AND SAID: "I URGE YOU TO DEFER ANY SUCH PLANNED DESTRUCTION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE."

(KENNEDY LETTER ATTACHED)

KENNEDY CALLED IT INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE CIA LACKS THE STORAGE CAPACITY TO KEEP THE FILES.

"IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF THE CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC IN THE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT - PAST AS WELL AS FUTURE - I THEREFORE REQUEST THAT THE PROPOSED DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL THE MANY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WITH AN INTEREST IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN HEARD ON THE MATTER," KENNEDY WROTE.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Legislative Counsel

DATE

23 June 1976

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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Director

25 JUN 1976

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Attached for your signature are letters to Senator Hatfield, Chairman Edward Kennedy, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure, and Chairwoman Abzug, House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, in response to their letters reacting to our letter to the Senate leadership concerning the moratorium on the destruction of Agency documents.

The letters were coordinated with the DDO, OGC, and the DDA.

George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

Attachments