

Executive Registry
76-2372

May 28, 1976

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Executive Assistant

FROM : Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT : DCI Talk on Texas State Radio Network

[redacted] Radio network in Fort Worth called yesterday afternoon. The network encompasses 150 stations.

[redacted] said that she would like to have a five minute telephone taped interview with the Director "some time soon." She said she meant whenever the Director can do it.

She gave Secretary Simon as a reference saying that he could confirm that the Texas network is not out to stick the schiv into us.

She said some of the things she wanted to ask about were the Kennedy assassination and Mr. Colby's remark that the Agency was not involved, plus other commentary on how Mr. Bush was enjoying his job (and similar).

I think the Director can very well blunt off any inquiries about allegations of Agency participation in the Kennedy affair and might well get a good message across in an informal five minute chat to a large Texas audience if he accedes to this request. [redacted] can be reached at [redacted]

STATOTHR

Angus MacLean Thuermer

STATINTL

STAT

STAT

STAT

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			Executive Registry 76-2372/1
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Angus Thuermer		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION
		<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY
		<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMENDATION
		<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN
		<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
<p>Angus, I called [redacted] and she is sending Mr. Bush the questions she wants him to answer. He will then tape his responses and mail the tape back to her.</p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
[redacted]			6/2
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	

FORM NO. 1-67 237 Use previous editions

(40)

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

P. L. O'Keefe

STAT

STATINTL

STATINTL

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE			DATE
Angus MacLean Thuermer			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFID	SECRET	

STATINTL

FORM NO. 1-67 **237**

Use previous editions

(40)

Executive Registry
76-2373/A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 28, 1976

Dear [redacted]

I am enclosing a copy of the graduation speech Mr. Bush gave at Trinity University on May 8, 1976.

Thank you for your kind words of support for Mr. Bush and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sincerely,

[redacted signature]

Secretary to Mr. Bush

Enc.

[redacted enclosure list]

Orig - Adse
1 - ER (w/basic)

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE *Public Affairs*)

STAT

STATINTL

STAT

STATOTHR

Commencement Address

at

Trinity University

By

George Bush

Director of Central Intelligence

8 May 1976

I want to speak to you -- briefly, you'll be happy to hear -- about credibility and commitment.

To be believed you really should be committed. To be committed you must really believe.

I am worried about the credibility and the commitment of our country as seen through the eyes of foreign countries, friend and foe alike.

You see, I am convinced that many countries are looking at the USA, and they are trying to decide where we're at.

Let's start at the beginning. We need an assumption.

Assumed, we have the best system of government in the world. There are inequities, no argument on that point, but there are comparatively few; and compared to any other system, we enjoy freedom -- much more freedom than most countries have.

We have existed for 200 years. We have stability, and all through our history we have had a commitment to freedom -- freedom of speech, of religion, of enterprise.

Christmas 1974 I was in China. I had only been there a couple of months, but already the enormous differences between our systems had been brought dramatically and very personally home to me.

China has done a great job in bringing minimal health care to hundreds of millions of people, and a great job in

-2-

containing crime, and in providing basic clothing and basic food to the masses; but they have paid an enormous price, at least by our standards, and that price is "freedom."

A radical group, visiting China, came to our house for Christmas Eve. They were travelling in China, staying at the hotel, and I thought it would be nice for them to hear some Christmas carols and be on the closest thing in China to U.S. turf.

I was moved by the strolling British carolers who had come by the U.S. Liaison Office, and I made a comment about "Aren't we lucky to be a free country."

One of the visitors spoke up and said, "We have no freedom in our country. We should emulate this system in China..."

I argued a little -- saw the case was hopeless, stopped, but continued to think about the exchange.

On the plus side, to be fair, China has done a remarkable job. Since what the Chinese refer to as "the liberation," they have made unbelievable strides. I was continually impressed by their sense of pride and their sense of commitment -- their dedication to the principles of Chairman Mao and their commitment to the revolution.

On the minus side, they dare not deviate from the approved line. They have no free press. They have initiative, but it must be channeled into the course dictated by the state.

They are not free to worship. They cannot choose their career. They cannot even choose if they want to get a higher

-3-

education. They are inhibited from marrying when they want to. Someone else, somewhere else makes these kinds of decisions.

But China is committed, and it is credible.

Incidentally, the Chinese put great trust in one's word of honor from a foreign relations standpoint.

Okay -- committed and credible; but they look at us today, and I really wonder what they think.

I think they respect our country. I know that individually there is little, if any, hostility to Americans in Peking.

China sees us as a strong country, rich in resources, with a military might unsurpassed in the world. I'm not sure they know enough about our system to give us credit for the diversity that marks our system, or to envy us our freedoms.

I do feel they understand our importance as a world power.

They know our system is different, and they feel that our relationship should be built on our self interest and theirs.

A lot of people speculated at the time of former President Nixon's recent trip to China. Why? Why the trip? Why Nixon? The answer was not related to the domestic political scene in the U.S., or to China's hope that we'd make dramatic policy changes. It was related to the fact

-4-

that Mr. Nixon told the Chinese when he took his historic trip, "I come in the self interest of my country."

To the Chinese this was commitment, and it was very credible.

Yes, China sees our importance as a world power. For their "self interest" they want a good relationship, but let's face it, they are asking themselves -- "Is the USA, after 200 years of democracy, or freedom, or whatever one calls our magnificent system -- is the USA committed? Do the people still believe? Do they believe enough to sacrifice for themselves, to say nothing of sacrificing for others."

They are asking the right questions. Many other countries are asking the same questions. These are questions that all of us should ask.

In my new job, I see lots of information on various countries. From this it is easy to conclude that China is a committed nation and that the USSR is a committed nation. I am not saying there is no dissent, but because of the way in which they establish leadership and stifle dissent, it doesn't matter much.

They are committed to world socialism, if you will. You and I should neither doubt that nor underestimate that.

But they look at us and they wonder about our commitment to democracy, or put it this way -- our commitment to oppose the export of communism or, in the example I want to use, the export of Russian hegemony.

-5-

The administration made a commitment to the Roberto and Savimbi factions in Angola just as Cuba and Russia made a commitment to the MPLA in Angola. Our commitment proved to be a commitment without credibility. Theirs was credible.

You might say, "So what, we stayed out; we didn't get involved in another Vietnam." True, but here's the problem: I saw an African leader this week. He used this example: you are walking down the street. You're a little man with a big guy as your friend. Another big guy comes along and says to you, "Come with me; you cannot trust your big friend." Then you have a fight with another person and the big friend does not stand up for you, so you go over to the other big guy for help. And then one other little guy over there, not in the fight -- he says, "Which one can I trust?"

He turned to me and said, "You, sir, know the answer." This man, representing a long-time African ally committed to freedom but too weak to preserve it alone, asked the key question.

Angola hurt us some in Africa, but it hurt elsewhere, too.

Japan, a jillion miles away from Angola, wonders, will we stand firm.

China, concerned about Soviet troops on her northern border, sees a strong NATO confronting the USSR in the west

-6-

as vital to China's interest, and she wonders.

Our Asian allies in Southeast Asia say, "They didn't keep that commitment. Will they keep a commitment to help us stay free?"

Our NATO allies themselves hear talk about isolation and withdrawal. They don't doubt the Soviets' commitment to Eastern Europe's domination -- and they wonder -- will the U.S. stay committed, credibly, to Western Europe's freedom?

It is a worldwide problem. I am not suggesting we be dedicated to intervention. Nor am I suggesting we must export our system to other countries. I am saying that we have obligations to countries that want to be free.

We are a world power, and we properly have worldwide obligations.

And so what does this all have to do with your graduation?

It gets us to the point where you get the free advice.

Our freedom I have been referring to gives you the right to tune it out -- I recognize that, but here it is:

First, as you leave here, don't give up your interest in learning. Study beyond the confines of your job.

Second, expand your interest to include a comparative look at the world. You'll see plenty of stories criticizing our country, our institutions, our leaders; and that is okay but -- just as the guy when asked "How's your wife?"

-7-

responded "Compared to whom?" -- you ask "Okay, we've got problems here. But how are we doing compared to others?"

If you conclude we're doing pretty well, then make a commitment. A commitment to participate in public affairs, a commitment to help in your community, a commitment to do something for someone else. A commitment, if you want, that De Tocqueville understood when he wrote: "The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults."

Lastly, save some time for contemplating our role in the world. For studying the realities we face. For understanding that because of our position in world leadership, what we do here shapes the destiny of many peoples all over the world. And then for doing something that will help make our commitment to freedom credible.

In these days of cynicism, there is an obvious question -- how many feel as strongly as Horace Mann did when he said, "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."

Answer -- I think you do; I know you must.

Thank you very much.

Executive Registry
76-2373

Waxahachie, Texas
5-19-76

Hon. George Bush
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have read that you are soon going to make a graduation speech, perhaps to the graduates of Trinity University in Texas. You are a solid American and should make an excellent speech to the young of today. I wonder if you would send me a copy of your lines. I am sure that I would enjoy reading them and be impressed by what you say.

We must try in some way to check these leftwingers, like Church et al, who are stabbing our country in the back and apparently doing what they can to destroy it, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

It should stagger the credulity of a Hottentot to think that 15 leftwing members of Congress could keep a secret for as long as 24 hours without snitching or lying about it. It is a crying shame but true, and everybody knows this to be a fact. I fear that the cherubfaced member, Frank Church, would be the first to run to Anderson or MISTER Rowan or some other mudcat in the open sewers or to cause the Post and Times to get out extras.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,
[Redacted Signature] STATOTHR
[Redacted Name] STAT
[Redacted Address] STATOTHR

Executive Registry
76-9190/L

GB

NIF

STATINTL

Following from [redacted]

His daughter is graduating from Allegheny College where you will be speaking. Ed is looking forward to ceremony & your speech.

Daughter, who really doesn't know much about agency, said she has noticed that faculty and students feeling some "uneasiness" about director of central intelligence coming to be commencement speaker.

[redacted] somewhat puzzled about this as he considers college somewhat off in backwoods of Penn., and not really ~~pl~~ plugged into this sort of thing.

STAT

STAT

I said I assume you had been invited by president or board. [redacted] said he would listen to whatever else his daughter had to say and tell us.

STATINTL

cc: DCI security.

1 June 76

[redacted]

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER		
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE
AIDCI		
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET

FORM NO. 237 1-67

Use previous editions

* GPO : 1974 O - 535-857

(40)

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE) *Public Affairs*

Orig of Ba is in DC office
ER has no info yet

Orig in O/DCI
6/8/76