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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mike Epstein, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence staff - 10 December 1976

1. Mike Epstein, staff aide on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to Senator William Hathaway (D., Maine), visited Headquarters to discuss an agenda for the Senator's visit to Headquarters on 16 December. Most of the questions developed during his recent tour of Agency stations overseas. Mr. Epstein met with [redacted]

[redacted] to outline at length two problem areas. In summary, the first question Epstein raised was what written directives are given to station chiefs in the area of covert activity which define or limit what they can or cannot do. He expressed the view that without such specific directions, station chiefs could, without consulting Headquarters, possibly stumble into a situation which could have international repercussions. He suggested that Senator Hathaway be presented with the exact directives or else be advised on the nature of Headquarters contact and station discipline which exists to prevent such situations.

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3. Following the briefing by  Epstein outlined several other items to be added to the agenda for Senator Hathaway's visit on 16 December:

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a. During the Senator's recent visit overseas, a number of our people expressed to him the need for a deeper cover arrangement. The Senator wondered since this problem has apparently existed for some time, why some solution has not been arrived at. Epstein said he understands that there are difficulties involved and he would appreciate receiving some information on the methodology followed in arranging for deep cover. He related further that the Senator is very sensitive to the needs expressed by our overseas people and that he would be willing to make any effort to resolve the situation that might be available to Congress. The bottom line of the briefing, therefore, should be to relate whether there is anything Congress could do to assist in arranging for deep cover situations and if there is nothing that they could do, that he be so informed.

b. The Senator is also interested in receiving a briefing which will outline the relationship between support and operations costs. His question is why is so much of intelligence money spent on support. In this connection, it would possibly put the facts into a better perspective if some information could be given on past, present, and future relationships between support and operations costs.

c. A final item of interest to the Senator is that as a result of his visit overseas, he now has a better feeling for what our stations are doing, but he is interested in learning how Headquarters fits into the picture and our relationship with the overall intelligence picture. What we need to do here is provide a concise summary of the relationship between Headquarters and the overseas stations and Headquarters and the rest of the Intelligence Community.

Office of Legislative Counsel

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