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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF

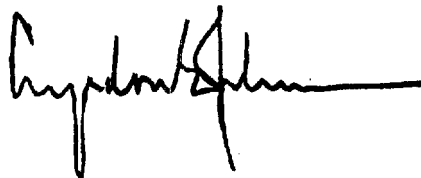
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Two incidents of the past few days have again reminded us of the need to be constantly vigilant in defense of the security of our nation.

In one, an effort was made by agents of a foreign power to penetrate the Department of State with a listening device, an attempt which was frustrated by the alertness of a loyal Department employee and the skill of the F. B. I. In the other, a retired officer of the U. S. Army was indicted and arrested on espionage conspiracy charges.

I bring these cases to your attention as a means of emphasizing the responsibility we share for safeguarding our vital national interests. The United States seeks amity with all nations. It wishes to give to the representatives of every nation the greatest possible freedom of action within our borders consistent with our national security. We must not, however, be lulled into dropping our guard against those who do not wish us well and are ready to exploit weaknesses of character or official carelessness to our country's detriment.

Our security services are professional and efficient. All but a very few of those in public service are patriotic beyond temptation and are alert and discreet in the conduct of their duties. But dangers persist. The incidents to which I have referred demonstrate that in every area where our national security may be affected, we must continue to maintain the highest standards of vigilance and self-discipline.



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