

DCI BRIEFING BOOK

(Murphy Commission)

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*W/O
Pres*

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TALKING PAPER FOR DCI BRIEFING ON MURPHY COMMISSION ON
CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS WITH EMPHASIS ON COVERT ACTION

*Clare
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I. Introduction

The National Security Act of 1947 and the CIA Act of 1949 set the pattern of CIA clandestine operations in the field of foreign intelligence. From the very beginning, the primary focus of CIA and the Intelligence Community has been and continues to be on information collection and analysis. We serve the Executive Branch by providing foreign intelligence on critical international issues and we prepare assessments on the significance of these developments. We also serve Congress and the public interest by providing the results of these assessments to Congress.

Our information collection mission is regulated and controlled by a system of national intelligence requirements recently refined as Key Intelligence Questions (KIQs) with which all agencies represented on the United States Intelligence Board are tasked and from whom periodic accountings of results are required.

*House Rule
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The KIQs and other formal requirements are continually revised in order to meet the changing needs of policy makers. Many influences are brought to bear in determining the content and priority of a KIQ, most importantly those flowing from the National Security Council mechanism, the State, Defense and Treasury Departments, ambassadors in critical countries, and the Congress.

Covert action, the main subject of this briefing, derives from the National Security Act of 1947 (Section 102(d)(5)) which authorizes the CIA "to perform such other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council may from time to time direct." As a result of Executive usage and Congressional sanction over the years, this specialized field of foreign intelligence activity has become an integral part of CIA clandestine operations. But, ~~it~~ must be stressed that covert action is a subsidiary task to that of intelligence collection and, in fact, our capability for covert action is usually in direct proportion to our ability to recruit key foreign officials and influential people for information purposes.

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