

20 NOV 1977

Honorable Melvin Price, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 14 April 1977 requesting the views and recommendations of this Agency on H.R. 6234, a bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, to provide criminal penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of intelligence sources and methods.

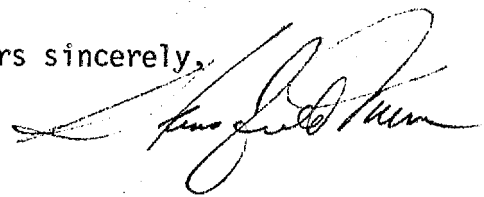
As I indicated during my confirmation hearings before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on 22 February 1977, and on occasions since then, action must be taken to protect against the unauthorized disclosure of information related to intelligence sources and methods. It is essential to avoid continued serious damage to the Government's foreign intelligence program. However, the sure and certain penalties, such as those embodied in this legislation would be, in my view, only one alternative method to protect the Government against those individuals who would breach their relationship of trust with the Government by disclosing sensitive information related to intelligence sources and methods. Other solutions might include:

- Reducing the total amount of classified material we have. In many ways, the proliferation of material has caused personnel to take high levels of classification for granted and become careless in the procedures.
- Restricting to a bare minimum access to the highest levels of sensitive information.
- Developing a range of administrative and/or civil sanctions to apply in cases of unauthorized disclosure.

All of these options relating to protection of intelligence sources and methods, including possible legislation, are presently under consideration in the Executive branch by a group under the direction of the Attorney General. Concurrently, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is studying legislation on this subject. I will welcome the opportunity to meet with you at the appropriate time in this process after recommendations have been developed. Until that time, however, although I fully support the objective reflected in this legislation, I would defer stating this Agency's position on H.R. 6234.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Yours sincerely,



STANSFIELD TURNER

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D/ Executive Secretary
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U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
Washington, D.C. 20515
NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS
MELVIN PRICE, CHAIRMAN

April 14, 1977

OLC #77-1521*

Honorable Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Turner:

The views and recommendations of the Central Intelligence Agency are requested on H.R. 6234, copies of which are enclosed.

Sincerely,

Melvin Price
Chairman

MP:ik
Enclosures

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