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15 APR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : National Credit Union Administration  
Burglary at the Office of the Administrator,  
1325 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

1. This memorandum is for your information only.

2. The Office of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) was broken into during the weekend of 3 April 1971. The exact time cannot be determined, but it was between the close of business 2 April and the time of discovery at approximately noon on 4 April. It was determined that a safe furnished to NCUA for storage of material relating to the Northwest Federal Credit Union was forcibly opened.

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3. On 6 April 1971 representatives of this Office and Mr. [REDACTED] Manager of the CIA Credit Union, inspected the above premises, specifically our two-drawer Diebold Class 2 safe which was apparently the prime target of burglars. A description of material involved is attached. For your information, the NCUA is now an independent agency and is no longer under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The Administrator is retired Marine Corps Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson.

4. Inspection of the safe revealed that forced entry was made by chiseling around the top of the safe (outer skin), removing two sheets of 1/4 inch aluminum, peeling the top back, chiseling through the inner skin (top right side), and forcing open a space large enough

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to reach into the top drawer (see attached photographs). It is understood that the only item removed from the drawer was an envelope, and it was left behind. It would appear from this that the culprit(s) was after money only since nothing was reported missing from the safe. It is to be noted that a bar lock file cabinet located in the same room was also forced open, but again nothing was reported missing.

5. Entry into the office space was accomplished by forcing the double wooden doors open with a pry bar; this was accomplished without damage to the doors or lock (a standard exterior door lock).

6. An inspection of the facility revealed the following:

a. General Nickerson's office (see attached floor plan) is located on the seventh floor of a modern commercial office building of brick and reinforced concrete construction, located in downtown Washington, D. C., in the block bounded by K, L, 13th, and 14th Streets, N. W.

b. According to the building directory, the building is occupied entirely by U. S. Government agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (National Crime Statistics Division) which, by the way, was also entered by the burglars. They are located on the sixth floor, and the target in that office is not known.

c. The main entrance to the building is off K Street. The building is serviced by three self-service elevators and there are two stairwells.

d. It is our understanding that all building entrances are secured after hours. We do not know how entry was made into the building.

e. There are no guards (GSA or otherwise) assigned to this building although it is understood that General Nickerson had requested such service in the past.

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6. There are no alarm systems in the NCUA office space.

7. As of 7 April 1971, a new two-drawer Diebold Class 5 safe was delivered to NCUA. The old safe was picked up and returned to [REDACTED]. On 8 April the material which had been contained in the damaged safe was returned to NCUA by the Agency Credit Union representative; and a representative of the Building Security Branch, Office of Security, set a combination on the new safe.

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8. The following recommendations are being furnished the Director of Personnel so as to improve the security of the NCUA office:

a. Review the necessity of the continual storage of CIA material at NCUA with the possibility of an offer that the Agency hold for them material that is not necessary for day-to-day operation.


b. Install a Vertical-bolt auxiliary lock on the entrance door to the NCUA Administrator's office space. One of the following is recommended: Eagle No. 7766, Sears Catalog No. 5804, Yale 197, Hico 466B, or Guard Life 56/GL. They should maintain strict control of the keys.

c. All check force duties should be accomplished during normal duty hours or under escort after hours.

d. The safe should be protected by a suitable alarm system. Central station coverage is available through a number of local companies.

c. The safe should be located in an area where it would not be visible to the casual observer. Closet space which could be key locked is ideal; and as an alternative to the aforementioned alarm system, the closet could be alarmed with door contact switch and/or ultrasonic alarms.

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Director of Security

Atts

cc: D/Personnel

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