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NSC-IG/ARA Information Memo #170  
August 11, 1971

INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP FOR  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

TO: The Secretary of Commerce  
The Secretary of the Treasury  
The Attorney General  
The Secretary of the Interior  
The Secretary of Agriculture  
The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare  
The Secretary of Labor  
The Secretary of Transportation  
The Postmaster General  
The Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board  
The Chairman, Civil Service Commission  
The Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
The Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission  
The Chairman, Interstate Commerce Commission  
The Administrator, General Services Administration  
The Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration  
The Secretary, Smithsonian Institution  
The Administrator, Veterans Administration  
The Director, Office of Management and Budget  
The Chairman, United States Tariff Commission

SUBJECT: Possible Effect of New Canal Treaty Being Negotiated  
with Panama on Interests and Activities of United  
States Government Agencies in the Canal Zone.

Under the General Convention with Panama of 1903, the United States has all the rights, powers and authority in the Canal Zone which it would have if it were the sovereign. Because the United States exercises full and complete jurisdiction in the Canal Zone and because of the extent and variety of the United States activities in the Zone, many United States Government agencies not directly involved in the operation and defense of the Panama Canal presently have an interest in and carry on activities in the Canal Zone.

The United States and Panama are now engaged in negotiations for a new treaty arrangement for the Panama Canal and the Canal

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Zone. If concluded, the new treaty may change significantly the status of the Canal Zone and might possibly affect the interests in the Zone of various United States agencies.

To assure that the United States treaty negotiators have all information necessary for the conduct of the negotiations, I would appreciate it if you would submit a report by August 27 of any official interest or activity in the Canal Zone by your agency which could be affected by the replacement of the General Convention of 1903. Your report should explain the nature and extent of your agency's interest or activity in the Canal Zone and should state whether there is a need to provide in the new treaty for the continuation or protection of these interests and activities.

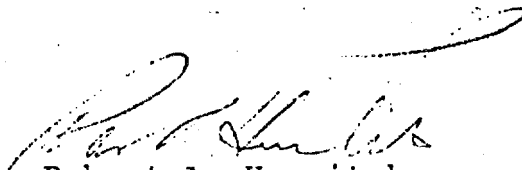
A similar report was requested of your agency in April 1966 and replies were received as follows:

Department of Agriculture, April 8, 1966  
Bureau of the Budget, no reply received  
Civil Aeronautics Board, April 8, 1966  
Civil Service Commission, April 8, 1966  
Department of Commerce, May 5, 1966  
Federal Aviation Agency, April 7, 1966  
Federal Communications Commission, April 12, 1966  
General Services Administration, April 12, 1966  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare, April 11, 1966  
Department of the Interior, no reply received  
Interstate Commerce Commission, April 7, 1966  
Department of Justice, April 19, 1966  
Department of Labor, April 21, 1966  
Maritime Commission, no reply received  
NASA, April 7, 1966  
Postmaster General, no reply received  
Smithsonian Institution, April 7, 1966  
Tariff Commission, April 6, 1966  
Treasury Department, April 13, 1966  
Veterans Administration, April 6, 1966

In the event that you have nothing to add to your previous report, a statement to that effect will suffice.

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Your reply should be addressed to Sandy M. Pringle,  
Country Director, Office of Panamanian Affairs, Room 2915,  
Department of State.

  
Robert A. Hurwitch  
Acting Executive Chairman

cc: ISA, JCS, CIA, USIA, AID/LA

*SP*  
ARA/PAN:SMPringie/jbp  
August 9, 1971

Clearance:  
ARA/NSC/IG:LFLane *W*

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