



common cause

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Executive Registry

576829

OLC #77-1103

March 16, 1977

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

Dear Admiral Turner:

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on a number of questions which were asked and the responses you gave during your recent confirmation hearings before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Common Cause is particularly interested in those areas in which you expressed a willingness to take some specific action. Therefore, I would appreciate your responses to the following questions:

(1) In reply to a question by Senator Bayh, you pledged to look "with dispatch" into the merits of requiring that permission be obtained from a federal judge before commencing electronic surveillance, mail openings and surreptitious entry. What conclusions have you reached as a result of your inquiry?

(2) You indicated to Senator Goldwater that you would keep the Committee posted as to your thinking on the wisdom of separating the functions of the Director of Central Intelligence and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Have you come to any decisions on this matter and, if so, what are they?

(3) Have you completed your evaluation of what priority should be given to counter-intelligence activities by the intelligence community, and what is the substance of your conclusions?

(4) In response to a question by Senator Stevenson, you stated that your "inclination at this time is that we should publish an aggregate budget figure for the total intelligence community." However, you did indicate your awareness of arguments on the other side, and your desire to examine them. Where do you stand now on making budget information public in some form?

(5) What are the results of your study of the present limitations of the law in the prosecution of persons who divulge classified information?

(6) In response to Senator Hathaway's suggestion that classified documents be subject to regular review for possible declassification, you stated that your "particular approach ...

MORI/CDF Pages

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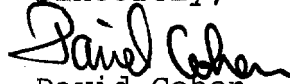
would be to conduct periodic reviews of what information can be gleaned from existing secure sources and classified information, and deliberately either declassify it, or if it is unclassified, extract it." What steps have been taken to implement this plan?

(7) You pledged to log all contacts with the President and other persons in regard to CIA business. What procedures have been established to carry out this promise?

(8) Have you given any further study to whether separate charters for each element of the intelligence community are appropriate or necessary? Have you reached any conclusions and, if so, what are they?

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,


David Cohen
President

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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8	D/DCI/NI			
9	GC	✓		
10	LC	✓		
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Remarks:
Prepare DCI response.

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