

6 September 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, DD/A
FROM:
Chief, Community Security Group
SUBJECT: Clearances for NFIB Agencies

1. Mr. Ben Evans continues to route to the Office of Security various requests from NFIB members for additional access approvals. He has recently sent to us a request from DIA which had been prepared in full compliance with directions from the DD/A and had been reviewed and endorsed by Dr. Hans Mark, also in full compliance with standing regulations. There is no need for participation by your office or the Office of Security in these requests. We set up the procedures and they are being followed throughout the community.

2. Actually the NFIB members feel some constraints already by virtue of the fact that they must justify in considerable detail their need-to-know and then submitting this justification to SIGINT, COMIREX or Dr. Mark for review and comment on the way to the DCI. The DCI has agreed that he would look to these elements as points of staff advice. Sometimes he agrees with the recommendations and sometimes he ignores it and disapproves the request for more clearances.

3. The Office of Security was not set out to be in this chain of command. OS plays no part in evaluating need-to-know of community members for the simple reason that we are in no position to pass judgement on other NFIB agency needs for clearances. There is no way we can provide reasonable staff advice to the DCI in these cases.

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4. Mr. Evans continues, however, to be of a different mind. His last venture was to suggest that the DCI would look to the DD/A to perform some role in making recommendations, even if this input would be a comment on what the proposed action would do to the related ceilings.

5. We don't agree. Neither the DD/A nor the Office of Security should get into this loop at all. The DCI has accepted the procedures and they are working well. We do not think they should be changed by inserting some additional action which could be viewed by other agencies as additional bureaucratic interference by the CIA in a matter between them and the DCI.

6. The Office of Security will, of course, make necessary comments and provide due staff advice on requests from non-NFIB agencies.

7. The Office of Legislative Counsel will continue to serve as the DCI's point of contact for all requests for clearances from the Hill.

8. The Office of Security's role in this whole matter of NFIB agency requests is, and should be, limited to keeping accurate records of the numbers of clearances in the community.

9. Mr. Evans put a P.S. on his note that you handled for Mr. Blake saying that he really needed help on how to staff these requests. I have provided him a detailed memorandum on how we should proceed in these cases. A copy is attached.

10. Your support in maintaining the position I spell out here and in the memo to Ben would be appreciated.



Att.

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