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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

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OEXA 82-2172/A

22 SEP 1982

Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum Committee on the Budget United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

Thank you for your letter of 1 September requesting information on our authority to provide physical protection to CIA officials.

While I can understand your concern that there is no specific authority to provide physical protection to Cabinet Secretaries and their Assistants, I would like to assure you that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is authorized to protect CIA personnel. Specifically, Section 5 of the CIA Act of 194 authorizes CIA to provide its personnel with armed protection. Both the Director of Central Intelligence and I are regularly afforded physical protection by career CIA security officers due to the highly sensitive nature of the classified information and activities attendant to our positions.

I trust that this will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

15/ John N. McMahon

John N. McMahon Acting Director of Central Intelligence

Distribution: Original - Addressee 1 - A/DCI 1 - DCI - Executive Director - ER - AO/DCI DDA OGC - 0/Security D/OEXA DD/OEXA - OEXA Record OEXA Chrono LLD (16 Sept 82)

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