

November 14, 1983

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN GLENN ENGLISH B

This is the first in a series of hearings to clarify for the Subcommittee the extent, efficiency, and impact of drug-related intelligence collection efforts in support of the drug interdiction programs. We will also be reviewing the process by which intelligence is disseminated to interdiction agencies, with special attention placed on the dissemination of tactical intelligence.

It might be helpful at this point if I define what I feel is the essential need that tactical intelligence must meet. Tactical intelligence must provide interdiction agencies with prior information which allows those agencies to place their limited resources in the right place at the right time in order to increase the probability of an interdiction.

I am aware that there is useful information that falls outside of my narrow definition, and I recognize the value of strategic information. However, if we are unable to provide time-sensitive information to the user in sufficient time to catch the smuggler, we are deficient.

The Subcommittee is also very interested in developing a better understanding of the role that intelligence agencies play in support of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the agency with primary drug intelligence responsibility. This will give us a more accurate picture of what is and isn't being done.

In recent months, the Subcommittee has spent a considerable amount of time investigating what "tactical" intelligence is available to the U. S. Customs Service in support of its air interdiction operations. We have reached the conclusion that the intelligence available to the Customs Service is inadequate and we expect, as a result of these hearings, to have a better understanding why.

Today we will hear from David Grief, National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics for the Central Intelligence Agency, and from National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics, Signal Intelligence, National Security Agency.

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