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2298-75

3 September 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: [redacted] Gates Testimony to the HSC

1. On the afternoon of Thursday, 28 August from 1400 to 1600 I monitored testimony given by [redacted] and Robert M. Gates to members of the House Select Committee (HSC) Staff. [redacted] and Gates are detailed from CIA to the NSC Staff. Ms. Jeanne W. Davis of the NSC Staff also was present. [redacted] was interviewed by a Mr. A. Searle Field, Director of the HSC Staff, and Ms. Emily Sheketoff a member of the Staff; Mr. Gates was interviewed only by Ms. Sheketoff. [redacted] interview lasted one hour and twenty minutes; Gates' interview lasted 30 minutes. A stenotypist was present during both sessions.

2. Each interview began with the witness being sworn in by Mr. Field and stating his full name and address. Ms. Sheketoff then questioned the witness using a prepared list of questions. There were frequent excursions from the list. Mr. Field who was present during the entire interview with [redacted] questioned him at length after Ms. Sheketoff had completed her line of questioning.

3. In each case, the witness was asked to describe his assignment on the NSC Staff and his previous assignment at CIA headquarters. There were a number of questions designed to determine if CIA exerted pressure on the detailee either to provide "inside" information to headquarters or to influence his actions and recommendations. Both [redacted] and Gates answered firmly in the negative, and I added a word at the end of the interview to emphasize that when an Agency employee is detailed to another agency of the Executive Branch, he is considered a full time employee of that agency with no strings attached.

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4. [] represents the NSC Staff on several interagency committees and his answers triggered a long series of questions by Mr. Field about the mission and function of the committees and their composition. Mr. Field asked a number of leading questions to suggest that on those committees where CIA had a representative, Mr. [] was not officially identified as a CIA employee and therefore CIA had dual, covert representation. Mr. [] thought that he was generally known as a CIA employee by committee members but made it clear that at such committee meetings he represented the views of the NSC staff and not those of CIA. At the conclusion of the interview with [] Ms. Davis made the point that the NSC Staff prefers to make use of employees from other agencies in order to have broad representation of the executive branch and to avoid adding another bureaucratic layer with vested interests.

5. Mr. Field also asked [] if he had requested a CIA monitor be present. [] somewhat surprised by the question, indicated that he had not made such a request but that he was told that a monitor would be present. Mr. Gates was not asked that question.

6. The testimony of each employee was frank and honest. In my opinion, there was nothing in the testimony that would reflect negatively on CIA or the NSC Staff. I thought both [] and Gates handled the questioning well and to the credit of himself and the Agency.

[]

Executive Officer
Strategic Research