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13 JUL 1961

Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

This is in response to your letter of May 11, 1961 asking for the comments of the Central Intelligence Agency on Senate Joint Resolution 77, "To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Information and Intelligence."

The proposed Joint Resolution contemplates a Joint Committee for both Foreign Information and Foreign Intelligence activities. The informational aspects of this resolution are not within my field of competence and responsibility. However, I do not believe that the two functions should be considered in one committee. At the present time they are handled by different committees of the Congress. Furthermore, foreign informational activities are overt. The intelligence activities to which the proposed Joint Committee would probably direct its chief attention are largely of a secret character and are not directly related to the foreign informational activities of the Government.

For some years there have been established Subcommittees of the Appropriations and Armed Services Committees of both Houses which have specific jurisdiction over CIA matters. We report to these Subcommittees in accordance with their requests and practice

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them with whatever material they wish. We also receive requests for appearances from other committees of the Congress. We have responded to these requests for intelligence briefings from your Committee, from the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, from House Foreign Affairs, and a number of other committees. During the course of the 86th Congress, Agency representatives made 48 appearances before various congressional committees. The creation of the proposed Joint Committee would not, I believe, lessen the desire of those committees for Agency appearances.


As the Director of Central Intelligence, I have the duty, subject to the National Security Council, to carry out the Agency's statutory responsibility to coordinate the foreign intelligence activities of the several intelligence organizations of the Government. These intelligence organizations are integral parts of departments or agencies responsible to different committees of the Congress. The Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House have legislative jurisdiction with respect to the Central Intelligence Agency. The creation of the proposed Joint Committee to study existing statutes of each intelligence agency of the United States might thus create jurisdictional problems since there is no evidence that any of the present committees having responsibility have indicated either the desire or willingness to cede jurisdiction over the Central Intelligence Agency or the intelligence components of the departments concerned.

From the standpoint of legislation affecting the Agency, I see no necessity for the establishment of a Joint Committee. The Agency was established by the National Security Act of 1947 and there was a subsequent enabling Act in 1949. Since the passage of these two laws concerning the Agency, only two items of legislation have been initiated by the Agency and have been handled by the Armed Services Committees having legislative jurisdiction. At this time there are no pending requests by the Agency for legislation and it is doubtful whether any such requests will be submitted by the Agency in the near future.

While the method through which the Congress informs itself on the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and the other foreign intelligence activities of the Government is a matter for the Congress to determine, I believe the matters discussed above are pertinent in considering the establishment of a Joint Committee for Intelligence Activities. As I stated on the occasion of a recent appearance before your Committee, I am satisfied with the existing arrangement.

The Bureau of the Budget has no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,



Allen W. Dulles
Director

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Copies of draft letter sent to:

3 - Bureau of the Budget (Mr. Hyde)
1 - White House (Mr. Feldman)
1 - State Department (Mr. McAfee)
1 - Defense Department (Mr. Paul)
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