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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

Serial: J-385-86
6 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Seymour Hersh Article - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (U)

1. (S-CCO) Thank you for your 29 July letter. I have already had my staff thoroughly review the Seymour Hersh article of 23 July, and we found it to be generally devoid of truth as it applies to NSA. It is true that

[Redacted]

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Consequently, we must assess that no substantive classified information was divulged.

2. (U) Nevertheless, I share your concern that someone--identified by Hersh as a former NSA official--may be speaking, albeit nonfactually, to Hersh about the Intelligence Community in general and NSA in particular. I have already initiated an internal investigation and will keep you advised.

3. (C) In conclusion, perhaps the greatest damage done by this article was the adverse publicity it created at a time when the administration is wrestling with its South African policy. The damage control we have had to do with congressional committees and staffs to assuage their concerns about the Hersh allegations is clearly time we would have rather dedicated to doing our SIGINT tasks.

WILLIAM E. ODOM
Lieutenant General, USA
Director

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