

2 December 1987
OCA 87-5925

NOTE FOR: The Director
THROUGH: Dave Gries
FROM:
SUBJECT: Declassification of 20 November Hearing Transcript

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Yesterday I met with Senate Intelligence Committee staff director Sven Holmes to go over the deletions that we want to have made in the transcript of your recent testimony on new oversight legislation.

I dealt first with the references to what we consider to be classified information, and Holmes readily agreed in each instance to delete the reference. I then pointed out sections of the transcript that touch on matters that may not be classified, but which we believe are nonetheless sufficiently sensitive as to warrant protection from disclosure. These included your discussion of some of Russ Bruemmer's preliminary findings; criticism of the General Accounting Office; the possibility of providing the Congress with the names of third countries that assist in special activities; and a brief reference to investigations conducted in the past by the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility. I also suggested to Holmes that little constructive purpose would be served by publishing Senator Specter's gratuitous and (in our view) unfair remarks about the Deputy Director. Holmes seemed genuinely sympathetic to all of these "sensitivity" issues and noted in particular his agreement that Specter's comments were irrelevant to the subject matter of the hearing, i.e., new oversight legislation. In this regard, Holmes emphasized that the major reason the Committee wants a declassified transcript is to include it as part of the legislative history of the Cohen/Boren bill as it moves through Congress.

The meeting ended with Holmes promising to take up and advance our concerns on these "sensitivity" issues with the Committee leadership. He also repeated his earlier pledge to let us review the transcript once again before any final decision is made to release it publicly.

cc: The Deputy Director