

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM

79 John F. Kennedy St.
(617) 495-1331



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[Redacted]

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Director of Training
Central Intelligence Agency
Arlington Center Building
4600 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 20505

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Dear [Redacted]

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I have begun research on the use by Congress of finished intelligence produced by the Agency. What I propose to do is describe the flow of information to Congress from the Agency from its inception in 1947 up through the Church and Pike Committee hearings and finally into the current period which began with the establishment of the oversight committees in 1976 and 1977. I will then explain how Congress uses the information it receives.

As you know, virtually all finished intelligence now goes to the oversight, foreign affairs and relations, armed services and appropriations committees. Congress' requirement for the intelligence is not only to keep the agency under control or as a basis to make judgments on the appropriation of funds, but also, as spelled out in the resolutions establishing the two oversight committees, to enable Congress to make decisions in matters concerning U.S. national security. Congress believes it needs CIA's output to play its foreign policy role. There is, of course, not exactly complete agreement between the executive and legislative branches on what Congress' foreign policy role should be, but Congress believes it has an important one (some members believe coequal with the President).

I am now reading the annual and other publications of the oversight committees and will interview staff and members from the oversight committees beginning in September. I will get to the other committees later on. Tom Latimer and Sven Holmes have agreed to schedule the interviews. I met with Tom and Sven last week and both were very cooperative and helpful. As you probably know, Sven will be replaced this fall by George Tenet.

I am not sure where exactly my research will lead me, but I hope to produce a monograph to be published by Harvard or in some journal.

I am also arranging for a discussion here at the Kennedy School Forum of the CIA and Congress. Holmes, Latimer and John Helgerson have agreed to participate. I will line up someone from the Kennedy School, probably Ernest May or Richard Neustadt or both, and someone from the law school who could talk about the Constitutional issue. This event will be open to the public and probably will occur in late October. The discussion will be about Congressional oversight of the Agency, Congress' role in foreign policy and the intelligence it receives to fulfill that role, and will almost certainly lead to questions of covert action.

For the semester beginning January 1989, I will organize a student study group on the CIA and Congress. This will be a non-credit course, meeting once a week, and will be open to all Harvard students. Peter Zimmerman will help me set this up (it must have faculty and student representative approval) but Peter is optimistic that can be arranged, and May and Neustadt have encouraged me in this effort.

Please let me know if you have any problems with what I propose to do. I will keep you informed of events as the planning becomes more definite.

I am attaching a note on a conversation I had with Tom Latimer which you may want to pass on.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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